Captain Horne’s Code

United States History

"Wherever we want to go, we go. That’s what a ship is, you know. It’s not just a keep and hull and a deck and sails. That’s what a ship needs. But what a ship is…what the Black Pearl really is…is freedom.”

-Jack Sparrow

“The problem is not the problem. The problem is your attitude about the problem. Do you understand?”

-Jack Sparrow

Contact Information

Captain Daniel Horne

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Website: captainhorne.com

\*The best way to get a hold of me is through e-mail. I check it multiple times throughout the day and I will get back to you within 24-hours of reading your e-mail. If you choose to call, please leave a message and I will call back within 24-hours. I typically do not answer my phone during class time as it disrupts the entire flow of the class. Call before or after school and there is a good chance you will get a hold of me.

Required Materials

\*Pencil/Pen everyday!

Course Description & Outline

United States History for grade 8 covers events and issues from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction and the western movement, emphasizing the 18th and 19th centuries. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to: exploration, colonization, Revolutionary War, constitutional issues, nation building, Civil War, Reconstruction, and western movement. Standards 1 and 2 should be integrated throughout the course rather than taught independently. The remaining standards can be taught either chronologically or thematically. Although the emphasis of this course is on the 18th and 19th centuries, additional content may be covered as time permits. See the calendar on my website for further instruction as to how many units there are and when they end.

THE CODE

“The only rules that matter are these: What a man can do, and what a man cannot do.”

-Jack Sparrow

All rules that currently exist at Frontier Middle School will be enforced in this classroom (\*See Student Handbook for a more comprehensive list of expectations).

Pirate Code #1: PREPARED & PASSIONATE!

Pirate Code #2: INVESTED!

Pirate Code #3: REAL!

Pirate Code #4: ATTENTIVE!

Pirate Code #5: THANKFUL & TRUSTWORTHY!

Pirate Code #6: ENTHUSIASTIC & ENGAGED!

Shipmate Workload

We spend 80-minutes every other day with each other and there is RARELY going to be homework so long as class time is used wisely. That does not mean there will nto be homework, however (see Choice Assignments below). When I lecture, I don’t expect you to take notes, but I do expect you to LISTEN. The lessons I have prepared are emotionally charged and inspiring, so NOT paying attention will be very, very hard. When my “lectures” take an entire class period, I more often than not EXCUSE the assignment for the day and usually turn it into an extra credit opportunity for those who truly want to demonstrate their learning to me. Dong the assignments shows me what GRIT you have. There are THREE types of assignments in my class and I refer to this as the MATRIX OF GRADING:

1. NON-NEGOTIABLE ASSIGNMENTS

These included ALL tests and quizzes (formative and summative assessments) we do on Mastery Connect, memorization pieces (Preamble and Gettysburg Address), MAP WORK, and any others that I will announce in class. In the event I am gone and I require a sub, the work you do that day will be considered a non-negotiable assignment. All non-negotiable assignments are MASTERY based, which means if you fail them, you redo them again and again and again and again until 80% mastery has been demonstrated.

2. CHOICE ASSIGNMENTS

Choice assignments DO count against your grade and they come in the form of primary source document packets we’ll do in class, at home SKYWARD quizzes based on lessons we have in class (these are open book, open neighbor, open notes, etc.) and any other announced assignments. You will do these assignments and whatever grade you get on it on the first attempt will become your grade. If you happen to perform poorly and it adversely affects your grade in a way that distresses you, GOOD NEWS: EXTRA CREDIT. So long as you have AT LEAST attempted the Choice assignments and demonstrated 80% mastery on the non-negotiable assignments, then I will extend extra credit opportunities to you.

3. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

All extra credit opportunities will be announced IN CLASS and they have firm deadlines for submission. After the due date for extra credit has passed, so, too, have the points. Even if you did the extra credit but never turned in what I requested, you forfeit the opportunity and will have to take advantage of the next opportunity. This is an area I am rigid on with deadlines. All extra credit will be linked to the curriculum and/or the school mission, vision, values and goals, especially the MUSTANG way.

Electronics

“ARG!!!” Say most teachers in the US about your electronic devices. Not me, however. We WILL use them and I may even provide chargers in my classroom for your devices so that they are ready to go for educational purposes and uses. If you have one and you are packing it on your person daily, GOOD! We will use it! Download a FREE QR Reader app as they will be used during the school year for various activities we will do.

Media

To reinforce what we learn in the books we will be reading this year, the textbook and other primary sources, I will show edited video clips from different movies. I will not show entire movies and permission from the administration will be obtained prior to showing any clip. The purpose of showing any clips is to help visualize what we are learning, employ good reading strategies (making connections, making predictions, making inferences, and so forth) and to build background knowledge in preparation for new material to be learned or reinforce material already learned.

Attendance/Tardy Policy

ALL HANDS ON DECK (it means…be here in the room)! If you’re not in the room when the bell rings, per school policy I will send you to the tardy office to get a late slip.

Breaks – Food- Drink

Yes, you will get them. Yes, you can bring them. No, I do not have “x” amount of hall passes per term that you can use. Ye shall not and will not abuse the hall pass so I have no reason to make “x” amount per student.

Grade Breakdown

Grades will be entered on a weekly basis and I will assess you in many ways: In class activities and worksheets, acquisition and demonstration of skills, PROGRESSION, quizzes, tests and memorizing two very important sources in American History (The Preamble to the Constitution and the Gettysburg Address). Below is MY grade breakdown (not a joke!):

A = 94-100 A- = 90-93

B+ = 87-89 B = 84-86 B- = 80-83

C+ = 77-79 C = 74-77 C- = 70-73

D+ = 67-69 D = 64-67 D- = 35-63

F = PARLAY!!! LET’S TALK!!!!

MY WEBSITE

Every year, I spend $150 to OWN THE RIGHTS to my website and domain name: CAPTAINHORNE.COM. It is money well spent as I see how much it gets used/accessed and I use it and update it daily. You will find a calendar that will have what we are discussing that day, along with when we are having tests/quizzes and what they will be covering. You will also find that instead of the drop down menus having TERMS, they instead have the UNITS we will be covering the entire year. On each page, I have clearly explained what we will cover and have MULTIPLE links for you to access that have assignments linked (just in case you lose the ONE I provide to you) along with study guides, study helps, important websites, videos, etc. I have spent A LOT of time working on and improving my website. USE IT. It’s one of my gifts to you.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Frontier Middle School does not discriminate on the basis of age, ethnicity, disability, national origin, race, religion, or gender in its programs or activities. Please contact a school administrator if you have any questions or concerns.

Administration Approval: Mr. Scott Sumner, Principal of Frontier Middle

Agreement

I agree to abide by the terms above and I understand the grading system as it is established. I know what is required of me and what will be required to earn a grade for this class.

Print Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please outline any questions, comments or concerns below: