

Somerset Academy
Magister Ricard
Room 416
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U.S. History

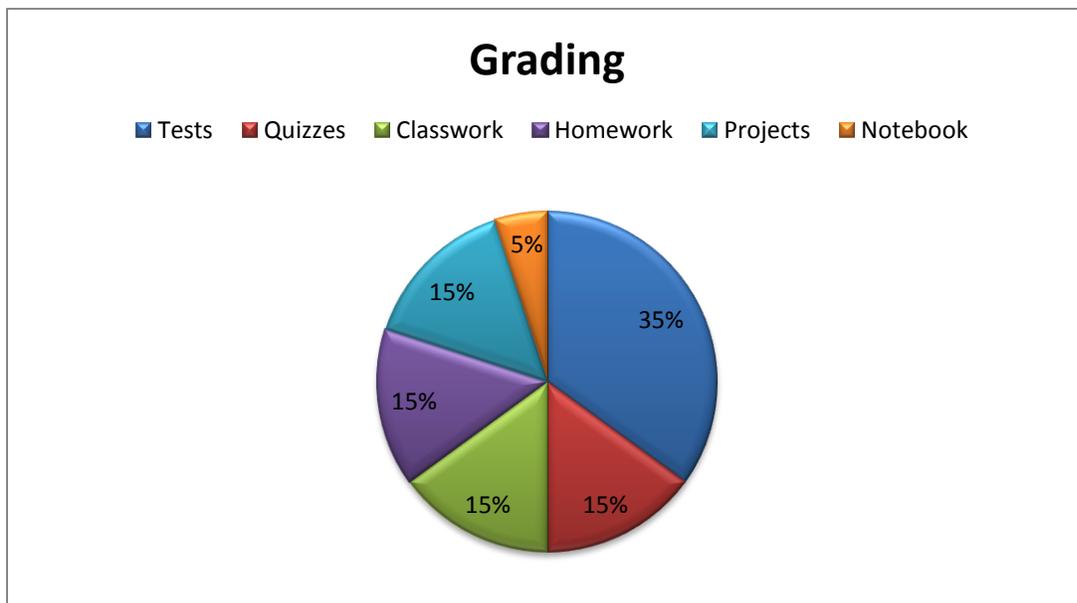
U.S. History will examine historical events and topics ranging from early American settlement patterns through the Civil War. We will be using a wide variety of tools to cover the material: lectures, group work, projects, debates, and cooperative learning – which means students will be teaching the class about certain topics. Students should expect a rigorous workload as they are prepared to enter High School.

Keeping in Touch

Students and parents will have several tools to stay updated about developments in the course. The first place they should check is SchoolNotes.com. There I will have the syllabus and other basic course materials listed. Also, check up on RicardAcademy.info as that is central hub for all my courses (just follow the navigation for US History). I will also be updating assignments, tests, quizzes, and due dates using Twitter – you can find my courses at Twitter.com/MagisterRicard. Finally, feel free to email me at my school account, jricard@somersetacademy.com. Communication is the key to avoiding problems so please feel free to contact me about any concerns.

Grading

There are 6 main ways students will be assessed for our course; see the breakdown below:



Testing will occur every other week; quizzes will be assigned on the odd weeks. Expect a quiz or a test each week. Homework will be assigned on a nightly basis; the grade for homework will be put in each Friday, encompassing that week's homework. The Classwork portion of the grade is comprised of completion of classwork, behavior, and preparation and participation in class – this is given as a daily grade. The grade for Notebooks is comprised of a notebook check which will be conducted on test days.

The Notebook must be organized in the following manner:



It is preferred that you get a 3 ring binder for your notebook – this way it is easier to put in and take out information. I will not require you to have a subject-specific notebook as long as you keep your subjects separated and organized appropriately.

There will be one major project per quarter; information on those projects will be given at a later date.

Expectations and Rules

Cheating will result in an automatic 0 on the assignment and parents will be contacted. For example, cheating means you are looking around or talking when there are tests out – even if you're finished. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will also receive an automatic 0. If you do not know what a word or a phrase means when completing your assignment, then you should consider that to be plagiarism.

I expect my students to be on time and to be prepared to succeed in class that day. Have your notebook and pen ready when class starts and be in your seat. There is no food or drink allowed in class except for bottled water with a cap.

There is no tolerance for electronics in class – cell phones or mp3s of any kind will be confiscated if seen or heard.

Students should show respect for faculty and their peers. Any signs of disrespect or bullying will not be tolerated and will be followed by contacting home. Minor infractions will start with a verbal warning, the second time the student will receive a Behavior Modification Plan (BMP) to fill out and a call home. The third time will result in detention and if a detention cannot be severed during the week a Saturday detention will be given. Subsequent infractions will result in a referral to the administration.

Basic Syllabus

1st Semester (August 24th to January 14th)	
1st Quarter	Chapter 1 – The First Americans Chapter 2 – Exploring the Americas Chapter 3 – Colonial America Chapter 4 – The Colonies Grow
2nd Quarter	Chapter 5 – Road to Independence Chapter 6 – The American Revolution Chapter 7 – A More Perfect Union Chapter 8 – A New Nation
Mid-Term Exam	
2nd Semester (January 19th to June 9th)	
3rd Quarter	Chapter 9 – The Jefferson Era Chapter 10 – Growth and Expansion Chapter 11 – The Jackson Era Chapter 12 – Manifest Destiny
4th Quarter	Chapter 13 – North and South Chapter 14 – The Age of Reform Chapter 15 – Road to Civil War Chapter 16 – The Civil War
Final Exam	

Syllabus Acknowledgement Form

Please print this page and sign it to show that you have read the course syllabus. This form will be placed in your portfolio. Please return to Mr. Ricard – I'm looking forward to a great year of learning with you!

Class: US History

Period: 2nd

Print Name (Parent/Guardian)

Signature (Parent/Guardian)

Date

Print Name (Student)

Signature (Student)

Date