

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Boston Collegiate Charter School 2011-2012**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Grade United States History**

**Teacher:** Miss Alabiso

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Tutoring/Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3-4 pm

❖ **Course Overview:**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Grade US History class will focus on United States' political and social history from the settling of the English colonies in North America and continue through the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. In this course you will be expected to improve your critical thinking, speaking, writing and research skills through the examination of the establishment, development and democratization of American institutions. We will investigate each period in depth to recognize the cause and effect relationships, as well as the social, economic and political impacts of each. Current Events will also be incorporated to this class to help students understand the courses relevance to today's world. We will also spend the first part of class **EVERY FRIDAY (starting 9/2)** discussing Current Events around the world. We will access articles through Upfront Magazine, which will be provided by the teacher.

❖ **Behavior Expectations:**

Our classroom is an environment that will foster learning for all students. Each day you are expected to come to class with the necessary materials and be ready to learn as soon as you enter. The **Golden Rule** of this classroom is respect. Respect each other, yourself and the teacher at all times. Since one person's behavior affects everyone else, disruptions of any kind will not be tolerated. During class discussions **EVERYONE** is entitled and encouraged to share their school-appropriate opinion - for this, acceptance and mutual respect is essential.

❖ **Materials Needed:** All students should have the following in order to be prepared for this class.

1. 3-Ring Binder: you are expected to keep a binder for this course that is divided into two sections; notes and handouts. Your note section should be filled with loose-leaf paper. Each day your work should be dated and placed in the appropriate section. Having an organized binder will prove invaluable when you have to study for exams.
2. Pen and Pencil
3. A set of colored pencils
4. Hi-liter

❖ **Books to be Used:**

The primary text for this course is The American Pageant 13<sup>th</sup> Edition. Supplemental materials will be copied and provided by the teacher as needed.

- You can find helpful study guides for this text by simply looking online.

❖ **Major Units:** Our **Big Idea** for the year is: Since its creation, the United States government has struggled to represent all people. Each unit will be designed to reflect this idea and help students understand the successes and failures of the government. The following is a list of units and the approximate times during which they will be covered. **Students should plan for weekly quizzes, as well as a major assessment at the end of each unit.**

- Unit 1- Colonies to Constitution (8/29-10/7)
- Unit 2- New Nation (10/10-11/4)
- Unit 3- Nationalism vs. Sectionalism (11/7-12/9)
- Unit 4- Second Great Awakening and Reform (12/12-3/2)
- Unit 5- Expansion and Conflict: The Road to the Civil War (3/5-4/6)
- Unit 6- The Civil War (4/23-5/11)
- Unit 7- Reconstruction (5/14-6/8)

❖ **Assessment:** Grades for each quarter will be calculated in the following way.

**Major Assessments- 35%**

This category includes tests, essays, document-based questions and long term projects. There will be a minimum of one major assessment per unit.

**Minor Assessments-30%**

This category includes quizzes, pop quizzes, in-class projects and presentations.

**Homework- 20%**

This includes work that is assigned on a nightly basis and will be graded on a **ten point scale**. To earn a ten students work must be complete, answered in complete sentences, accurate and followed all directions.

**Classwork- 15%**

This work includes Do-Now, Current Events, in class activities that are collected from individual students, as well as class participation.

Your **final course grade** will be calculated as follows:

Quarter 1- 21.25%

Quarter 2- 21.25%

**Midterm (Thursday January 26th)- 5%**

Quarter 3- 21.25%

Quarter 4- 21.25%

**Final (Monday June 18<sup>th</sup>)- 10 %**

❖ **Classroom Policies and Procedures:**

**Late Work- Late homework and classwork** will not be accepted in this course from students with unexcused absences and students who choose not to complete an assignment. For students with excused absences, you will have one day to make up missed homework and classwork. If you miss an assessment during an excused absence, you are expected to make it up the day you return to school.

- **For major assignments:** 25% off after 1 day, 50% off after 2 and no credit after three days.

**Plagiarism-** Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. This includes, but is not limited to

- copying/allowing someone to copy your homework,
- looking at another student's test or quiz
- passing in a paper that you have copied from another source.

A complete description of plagiarism and the accompanying offenses can be found in the Student Handbook.

**Do-Now Work-** Will either be **handed to students** as they enter the classroom or be **on the front board**. Students are expected to begin this work immediately, without being prompted by the teacher.

**Participation-** Is essential to a great classroom environment and students will be expected to participate in class everyday. I will often call on students randomly to make sure the whole class is paying attention. "I don't know" is not an acceptable answer in this class. You are all responsible for having answer for a question or at least be able to show me where you tried to find the answer.

**Homework-** Students should expect to have about 30 minutes of homework per night, including the weekend. This does not include long-term assignments.

- ❖ **Closing:** I love history and hope that I can inspire that passion in each one of you. I am always available for help; either during my office hours or by email- so do not be shy! Stay on top of your work and if you feel like you are getting lost; ask for help right away and do not wait until the end of the unit when backtracking can seem overwhelming. I am looking forward to a great year together and cannot wait to start our adventure in American History!