

**Ms. Cimino US History & Geography
Syllabus 2016-2017**

Contact Info: rec9955@lausd.net

King Website: www.kingms.org

Class Website: www.ms.ciminohistoryclass.weebly.com

Supplies: Students are expected to come with supplies every day. This includes History Notebook, pens and/or pencils, colored pencils, glue stick, and highlighter.

History Notebook: Students will complete all class assignments in their History Notebook. New assignments are given DAILY. A running list of notebook assignments is posted IN CLASS as well as on the www.kingms.org website. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of assignments and complete work daily. Notebooks are collected and evaluated towards the end of each unit (approx. every 3-4 weeks). This is approximately 4-5 times per semester. Due dates for the History Notebook will be given in short advance along with an evaluation sheet.

In an effort to keep students on track, I will tentatively "stamp" assignments complete. Obtaining a "stamp" means that the assignment has been completed correctly by the given due date. Obtaining a stamp will ensure that a student retains full points for the assignment when the assignment is graded. Missing stamps will result in a 10-point deduction per stamped assignment.

Homework: Notebook assignments are assigned as class work. **I DO NOT ASSIGN HOMEWORK.** However, students should be reminded that **managing class time effectively is extremely important** as INCOMPLETE CLASS WORK BECOMES HOMEWORK.

*** Please be advised that I reserve the right to collect and grade History Notebooks at any given moment.

Teaching Methods and Projects: I use a variety of different teaching modalities in order to effectively engage students and to better prepare them as 21st Century learners and citizens. The class is structured to be highly interactive and student centered. In addition to individual work, students should expect to work in pairs and groups to access and analyze historical content. Students will be evaluated using the FOUR C's in collaborative group work, Socratic Seminars, various Art & Media projects, as well as the 8th grade "Rube Goldberg" Interdisciplinary Project.

- **The Four C's:** Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity.
- **Socratic Seminars:** The goal of a Socratic Seminar is for students to help one another understand the ideas, issues, and values reflected in a specific text. This requires preparing, SPEAKING, and citing evidence in the discussion. Students must speak in the discussion in order to receive a passing grade.
- **Art & Media Projects:** A series of culminating art & media projects will be given over the course of the year. Projects must follow guidelines and instructions and be turned in by the due date in order to receive credit. Students who fail to turn in projects by required due dates will receive a "U" in Work Habits.
- **Rube Goldberg Project:** This is an 8th grade interdisciplinary project that requires students to work in groups of up to 4 to build a Rube Goldberg machine. This project counts for points in all four core content areas: Science, Math, History, and English. Ms. Howard introduces the project during the Fall semester in Science class. Students will form groups and begin building a Rube Goldberg machine outside of school. The Final Project is presented during the Spring Semester at Open House.

Grades: I post grades on www.jupitergrades.com. Please sign up for this useful service. Be sure to include your email and I will send you class updates and important due dates!

Grading Policies:

- A 69% or lower (a "D" or an "F") on a Notebook Evaluation will receive a "U" in Work Habits for the following report card.
- Failure to turn in a Notebook (without making prior arrangements) will receive a "U" IN BOTH Work Habits and Cooperation for the following report card.
- Failure to complete Notebook assignments completely, accurately, legibly, or punctually will result in low Academic grades and Unsatisfactory marks in Work Habits and Cooperation.
- Late Notebooks are not accepted unless the student has been absent and/or has made prior arrangements.

- Once Notebooks have been graded and returned to students no further work will be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- There is NO EXTRA CREDIT. There is ONLY CREDIT. Please do the work assigned, in the order assigned, by the date assigned.
- PLAGIARISM: Students are expected to do their own work independently except where designated group work is part of whole class instruction. Students who copy the work of others or allow their work to be copied will receive ZERO CREDIT and BOTH parties will receive a “U” in both Work Habits and Cooperation. Please see “G.A.T.” contract.
- Students must sit only in assigned seat and remain in assigned seat unless they ask permission.
- Students not in the assigned seat when tardy bell rings will be marked tardy. Three tardies equals in a “U” in Cooperation.
- Students must be working for the entirety of the class period. Students should have notebook and materials out at the beginning of the period without being prompted. Students should not pack up until notified by the teacher. Failure to do so will result in a “U” in BOTH Work Habits and Cooperation.
- Students must raise their hands if they wish to comment or be called on. Students shouting out, interrupting others or the teacher will receive “U’s” in Work Habits and Cooperation.
- Students eating, sleeping, using their cell phones without permission, or violating other class rules will earn “U’s” in Work Habits and Cooperation.

See “The 10 Commandments of my History Notebook” for notebook assignment requirements.

See “Class Rules” posted in class.

If you are absent:

Please be advised that absences will affect your grade. When you are not in the classroom you are missing instructional time. This includes assignment instructions. Please keep this in mind if you are planning on multiple high school tours, field trips, or family vacations during the school year. I do not give assignments prior to your departure. If you are ABSENT:

1. Check the www.kingms.org website for any new assignments listed that you missed.
2. **Phone a friend. Get a study buddy in your Magnet and exchange phone numbers.**
3. **Check in with me upon your return for any missing handouts or assignment instructions.**

Resources: Multiple resources are used in teaching history. In addition to the take home textbook, America: A History of Our Nation, supplemental materials are used including secondary textbooks, primary source documents, artifacts, and images. Many of these resources are posted on the www.kingms.org website when possible.

Websites: Please check the class white board daily and the www.kingms.org website for a running list of notebook assignments and tentative due dates. My class website <http://msciminohistoryclass.weebly.com> contains a useful collection of resources including: class syllabus, The 10 Commandments of my History Notebook, student work and project examples, and supplemental readings. Use this site for resources only. Notebook assignments are not posted here. Please see www.kingms.org website for assignments and due dates.

8th Grade TEAM website:

Other Important Stuff:

Recommendations: In order to receive a recommendation for high school students must adhere to the following protocol and criteria:

- **For John Marshall’s S.A.S.** program students must have a 4.0 G.P.A., an “A” in History, and no “U’s” during any grading period during the 8th grade year. Please be advised that this is a rigorous program that involves group work and project based learning.
- **For all other recommendations Public & Private:** Students must have a 3.5-4.0 G.P.A., an “A” in History, and no “U’s” during any grading period during the 8th grade year.
- **All students must fill out a “Request for Recommendation Form”.** Requests will be completed in the order received and should not be expected during grading periods or during the week of Rube Goldberg.
- **The cut-off date for letters of Recommendation is SPRING BREAK.** Please submit all requests prior to this week.