

# HONORS AMERICAN HISTORY SYLLABUS

SARASOTA HIGH SCHOOL  
DR. SANDRA B CRIHFIELD

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<http://shshistory.com> – website



**LOCATION:** Building 13 Room 210

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A full year course in the history of the United States and its place in the world. Emphasis will be placed on the geography, economics, politics, social fabric, the cultural and social heritage, and the popular culture of the American story. Each time period will be analyzed as to why we lived the way we lived and how this was shaped by the world in which we live. Current events will be utilized to illustrate how history relates to today. The course will be inclusive in nature and will allow students to see themselves in American's past and present.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The student will be able to:

- + read a world and United States map and understand the basic tools of map reading.
- + analyze information and draw conclusions from this material
- + identify key people in American History
- + utilize research tools in the pursuit of knowledge
- + place major American events in chronological order
- + describe major events in American History
- + write information in a cohesive manner
- + read information, on their own, and summarize the information
- + search and record information from reading and scanning resource materials
- + write a properly cited persuasive historical essay



**EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS:** In addition to the above objectives the county requires the addition of the following skills be observed and recognized by each course taught. The skills are: attendance, punctuality, brings required materials to class, appropriate on task behavior, task completion, and an attitude of cooperation. According to school board policy employability skills will count 20% of the student grade.



**TEXT:** The American Vision, Appleby, Brinkley, Broussard, McPherson, and Ritchie, 2005 is the text. Each student will receive a text to take home to use. The student is responsible for returning the text, in good condition, at the end of the year or pay for a replacement (\$64.92). A classroom set of the same books will be available in the classroom. The text is also available on the Internet on the text website on-line and the student may burn a copy of the text from CDs available to be signed out for the purpose of making student copies of the text on CD ( The publisher has given permission to make as many copies as needed). Additional materials will be presented throughout the course. Supplemental readings, computer research, videos, television news, newspapers, periodicals, maps, and lectures will be utilized to present a balanced and varied approach to the study of history. Each student must have a permission slip signed by parents to view school purchased and adopted films.



**WEBSITE and E-MAIL:** The website has all the materials the student needs to successfully navigate the course. It also has links to the text, supplemental readings, and a calendar for the course. [<http://shshistory.com>]  
All communications via e-mail should be at the school address listed at the beginning of the syllabus. I check my e-mail at least once a day but do not expect an immediate answer it will take 24 hours for a guaranteed reply. If you want me to preview an assignment, store a document, or send a finished assignment you may use AngelWeb or the Yahoo address to send it. A link to AngelWeb is on the home page of my web site. I only look at AngelWeb and the Yahoo site once a week. Make sure to put your full name, class period, and assignment number in the subject line. If you do not have an e-mail address you may use the Yahoo account by signing in as **dr\_crihfield** and the password is **school**. This account is only used for assignments.



**GRADES:** Grades are based on the SHS scale of 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, and 59 and below failing. The student's grade will be made up of 20% employability skills and 80% history knowledge. The 80% will be composed of tests, and units of class and home assignments. Each of these components counts equally. These grades will be available to the student and the parent when requests are made and can be accessed using Smartweb. All assignments the student produces will be graded and returned to the student with a grade. The student is responsible for keeping all the unit work till it is recorded in the grade book.



### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- **ON TIME**- being tardy is unacceptable, if you have to be late place the note on my desk and then sit and start note taking or the assignment without disturbing the class or instructor. Changes to the schedule and important announcements will be made at the beginning of the class period.
- **PREPARED**-be ready for all class assignments. No late assignments will be accepted without a school excused admit for the absence. Reading the text and supplemental readings, is a minimum requirement. Monitor the website calendar to check due dates for assignments.
- **RESPECT**- The student is responsible to follow all SHS and county rules and guidelines. The student is responsible to articulate his/her needs for a successful semester and behave in a respectable manner to all students and the instructor. There will be zero tolerance to disrespectful language, gestures, or written material as regards to race, sex, or cultural heritage. Tolerance of other people's ideas is important to the understanding and development of the American experience.
- **RESPONSIBILITY**-Come to class ready to work. **NO CELL PHONES!** Cell phones disrupting class in unacceptable, if I see it or hear it, it is gone for the day. If this happens again, half of the employability points will be deducted. If you need to use the restroom, take the pass and go. We will be moving on without you.

- **ATTENTION AND NOTETAKING-** This is not a place to do homework, to sleep, to talk on the phone, or to run errands. Playing on the computer during class lectures will cause the privilege to be revoked. If you choose the use a computers follow all class computer rules. You have chosen to take on this responsibility.
- **HONESTY-**Cheating is unacceptable, check your student handbook. Plagiarism is unacceptable and all cases of plagiarism will result in a zero. Failure to cite a source in a written assignment will result in an F on that assignment. You have chosen to be an honor student act like one.



**PRIVACY PROTECTION AND PARENT CONTACT:**

Due to laws regarding student privacy I cannot respond to e-mails about individual students. An e-mail contact letter will be sent home the first day of classes. Please fill out this form completely and we may communicate by e-mail at any time in the year. When using the telephone to confer with a parent/guardian, I am obligated to verify the caller, so please call from a phone whose number is listed with the school system.