

Honors U.S. History
Mr. Bryant

In the past, He let all nations go their own way. Yet He has not left Himself without testimony...--*Acts 14:16-17*

Philosophy:

The United States is exceptional—not because of the morality of its people, the diversity of its people’s opinions, nor any special revelation of divine sanction. The United States is exceptional because as a political entity, as an economic power, and as a collection of individuals, it is new. Startlingly new—almost without precedent in its achievements and its potential.

The United States emerged at just the right time to both ride the crest and create the current of scientific and commercial development that defined the 19th Century in the Western World; its resulting industry and wealth made it uniquely suited to inherit its position as the center of world affairs after Europe all but destroyed itself in the wars of the 20th Century. As the Eastern World fell prey to totalitarian and authoritarian dictatorships, as Latin America and Africa struggled to reclaim what they could from centuries of foreign domination and decades of infighting—as all this was happening, the United States somehow retained the essential elements of economic and political freedom, and the inestimable tradition of open debate concerning these issues.

The United States has survived religious, sectional, military, and philosophical conflict partly because of its geographic isolation, partly due to compromises large and small, and partly because of the insistence of its people that the laws of their republic be formulated and enforced by democratically elected leaders who represent their interests. This insistence has led to peace, war, righteousness, injustice, prosperity, poverty, unity, and division—and forebodes that in the 21st Century, it will lie with *the people* of the United States to decide, both individually and through their representatives, which parts of their heritage must be preserved, and which parts are better left behind.

Objectives:

Students will understand the motives and experiences of people in history.

Students will practice thinking critically and responding appropriately.

Students will weigh arguments by historians and scholars advocating differing interpretations of the historical record, and refine their own approach to historical questions.

Students will recognize where the cause of the nation and the cause of Christ intersect, as well as where they diverge.

Students will be committed to participation as “salt and light” in their local and national government.

Texts:

A History of the United States (Prentice Hall)

Various articles and literary excerpts

Conduct:

The instructor will set the tone for mannered, mature interaction.

Students will be respectful, cooperative, and honest toward the instructor and toward other students.

Students will participate in discussion and debate as appropriate.

Students will complete their own assignments independently and honestly, except where posted descriptions indicate that an assignment is collaborative.

Any disrespectful, uncooperative, dishonest, or inappropriate behavior may, at the discretion of the instructor, result in detention. This determination will be made considering warnings, previous history, particular circumstances, or the immediate effects of the offense.

Students are responsible to comply with classroom expectations and to uphold the Student Dignity Policy.

Students will be subject to the detention fault system as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Materials:

Students will arrive each day with their text, a notebook, and any assignments due. Students are also responsible to retain all assignments, handouts, and maps for the current unit of study in a section of their binder or notebook. Materials from past units may be retained to aid in preparation for midterm and final examinations.

Students who miss class will arrange to obtain necessary materials from a classmate. Students should visit and become familiar with the CVCHS website and Mr. Bryant’s web page and its contents.

Grading:

Quarter

Assignments	15%
Portfolio Assessments	35%
Quizzes	10%
Unit Tests	40%

Semester 1, 2

Quarter 1,3	45%
Quarter 2,4	45%
Midterm/ Final Exam	10%

Preparedness:

Students who fail to submit an assignment on time will receive 0% on that assignment. If typing is required and students submit a handwritten assignment, it will be returned with instructions to type before credit is given, usually with a deadline date. A zero will be recorded until a typed assignment, attached to the original handwritten paper, is submitted. Then credit will be assessed according to the notation on the original paper (circled score). Typed assignments submitted more than one week after the handwritten copy will not be accepted, and the assignment will be recorded as a zero.

Students who fail to submit or present a project on time will lose 30% per day late, unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

Students planning to be absent must submit assignments and complete tests beforehand.

Students who miss a Daily Quiz (scheduled quiz over assignment due) will receive a zero initially. However, the instructor will drop the two lowest Daily Quiz scores at the end of each quarter. Students missing more than two Daily Quizzes will arrange to take makeup quizzes (subject to be determined by the instructor) no later than three days before the end of the quarter. Students should monitor their own quiz forms and anticipate this. Absence is the only occasion for makeup work in the “Daily Quiz” category.

Students wishing to submit an assignment that would under normal circumstances receive a zero or other penalty must complete and attach a Late Work Petition (available in the classroom) to the **completed assignment**. In general, students will be allowed one day late per day of class missed for any given assignment. Specific hardships or special considerations should be noted on the Late Work Petition. Credit will be assessed by the instructor with reference to the Late Work Petition.

Students will fulfill restroom obligations between classes.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students seated after the last bell will be marked tardy. Students will be assigned a detention upon their third tardy, to be served as per the *Cavaliers Student Handbook*.

Instructor Contact:

William A. Bryant
Email: bryant@cvc.org (Please use full student name as subject line.)
Classroom: (559) 734-9481 ext. 233 (Voice mail available.)