

U.S. History

MRS. HOUSTON

GRADING POLICY

UNITS OF STUDY IN U.S. HISTORY

- Review of early American history learned in 8th grade
- Industrialization, Immigration & Urbanization
- Progressivism
- Imperialism
- WWI
- Roaring 20s
- Great Depression
- New Deal
- WWII
- Cold War, including Vietnam & Korea
- Civil Rights Movement
- Contemporary issues

- * 50% of your grade is on various forms of assessments including quizzes, tests, essays, projects, debates, speeches, and some homework modules.
- * 40% of your grade is "practice". Practice includes some homework modules, and your notebook which is made up of starters, notes, class work and homework assignments.
- * The final 10% of your grade is based on class participation, group work, collaboration, and oral checking for understanding. I use the app. Class Cards to grade. I will update your score appx. Every 2-3 weeks.
- * Grading will not be stopped at progress reports or quarter report cards. Only at the semester. (See page 3 to find out ways that you LOSE your points.)
- * While progress reports and quarter report cards inform students and parents of student's current grade heading into the end of the semester, it is the semester grade that remains on your permanent transcript and counts toward college eligibility and admission consideration.
- * **Assignments need to be turned in on time. Notebooks that are turned in late will earn a maximum of**

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I COME INTO CLASS?

1. Quietly sit in your assigned seat.
2. Make sure you have your FHS id. If you did not bring it with you, you will be sent to your building office.
3. Turn off your cell phone and put it away in your purse or back pack.
4. Put away all headphones.
5. Put back packs and purses on the floor. They may not be on your desk, lap, or hip. (This will alleviate the teacher's assumption of secret texting.)
6. Take out your notebook and copy down your homework.
7. Update your Notebook "Table of Contents"
8. Answer the daily "starter".
9. Then, quietly wait for the teacher to start class.

What do I need to bring to class?

Your History Notebook,
pen or pencil, glue stick,
and a positive attitude!

United States History Online Module Homework

Completing Homework:

In order to complete the homework, students will need access to the Internet. The website can be accessed and is compatible with desktop computers, laptops, and cell phones. The URL for the website is:

<https://sites.google.com/view/luhsdushistorymodules/home>

The link is also available on Mrs. Houston's website. Once the module is completed, students will turn in their response on 'Turn It In'. The URL for the website is: <http://turnitin.com/>. The link is also available on Mrs' Houston's website, as well as the homework website.

Not all modules will be assigned. Mrs. Houston will pick and assign modules. This requires that students check her website at least once a week. The window for students to turn in their completed work on Turn It In, will begin every week at 12:01 AM on Sunday's and close at 11:59 PM on Saturday's. Turn it in will notify me if it is turned in after this time, if that is the case it is an automatic ZERO. I will not accept any late homework. Therefore, students need to use their time wisely throughout the week, in order to prevent any technical difficulties, etc.

The modules are split into two pages, Semester One and Semester Two. Then each semester is broken down into various topics with essential questions for each, along with a list of modules. Again, not all modules will be assigned and/or will not be assigned in order. Therefore, students will need to check Mrs. Houston's website in order to ensure they are completing the CORRECT weekly module. If they turn in the incorrect weekly module, it will be an automatic ZERO. Each module will have a link to the source and corresponding question(s). The student must go to the link, read and/or listen then analyze the source, and lastly respond to the question(s). Their response to the question(s) is what they will be turning in on Turn It In.

We will complete the first module homework assignment together as a class and set up their Turn It In account, if they do not already have one.

This homework policy is used by ALL U.S. History teachers at Freedom High School.

Grading Homework:

When students turn in their completed assignment on Turn It In, it will provide me with a percentage of how much of the response is plagiarized. This allows Mrs. Houston to ensure that each student's work is actually their own work, and not their friend's from another class period, their friend in another U.S. History class, or copied from the Internet. **If the percentage is 25% or higher, it is an automatic ZERO for that homework assignment.** There will be NO make ups!

The rubric below defines how Mrs. Houston will grade the homework assignments.

	1	2	3	4	5
Response to Question	Student does not address the prompt. AND/OR Response is entirely lacking in important details.	Student vaguely addresses the question, and the response is lacking detail in significant areas of the question. Student does not use academic language.	Student addresses the prompt, but does not address several important parts of the question. Student does not use academic language.	Student addresses the prompt. Response addresses most areas of the question. Student occasionally uses academic language from class.	Student directly addresses the prompt, and thoroughly answers all areas of the question. Student uses academic language or vocabulary from class in response.
Use of Evidence	Student does not cite any evidence to support their claim.	Student makes only vague reference to evidence, but does not cite the source.	Student references the provided source, but does not directly cite the source.	Student directly cites the provided sources at least once (or follows directions in the prompt). Evidence is not integrated into response.	Student directly cites the provided sources at least once (or follows directions in the prompt). Evidence is integrated into response.
Analysis of Evidence	Student does not analyze the evidence for quality, connections, or support of claim.	Student vaguely describes that the evidence is connected to claim, but does not demonstrate how.	Student specifically describes that the evidence is connected to claim, but does not demonstrate how.	Student evaluates the quality of the source. OR Makes connections to other valid past or present events.	Student evaluates the quality of the source. AND Makes connections to other valid past or present events.
Grammar	Contains multiple spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. Not written in complete sentences. Frequent use of non-academic language.	Contains multiple spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. Written in complete sentences. 2 - 4 sentence response. Occasional use of non-academic language.	Contains occasional spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. Written in complete sentences. 2 - 4 sentence response. Almost entirely uses academic language.	Contains few spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. Written in complete sentences. Minimum 5 sentences. Only uses academic format and language.	Response does not contain any spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors. Written in complete sentences. Minimum 5 sentences. Only uses academic format and language.



Room D210



Email address: houstonl@luhsd.net

Phone (925)625-5900

I use the Freedom Website.

U.S. History HW Modules: <https://sites.google.com/view/luhsdushistorymodules/home>

Turn it In: https://www.turnitin.com/login_page.asp?lang=en_us

1st and 5th periods are my preps. I'm available to see you then, during lunch, or after school Monday through Thursday by appointment.

H O W D O I L O S E M Y C L A S S P A R T I C I P A T I O N P O I N T S ?

- Being tardy
- Not having your FHS id
- Having a backpack, purse, or bag of any type on your desk, lap, or hip
- Breaking cell phone zero tolerance policy
- Not completing classwork or homework
- Not having your notebook
- Coming to class without paper, pen, etc.
- If you are off task
- Not following directions
- Not watching video (head down, trying to text in purse, etc.)
- Being rude, disrespectful, or argumentative to anyone in the classroom
- Not doing the class "starter"
- Being vulgar or using profanity
- Copying or cheating
- Doing homework or assignments from another class
- Not doing your share while working in pairs or groups
- Packing up early/quitting working before class is over
- Lining up at the door
- Leaving class with out permission
- Taking an excessive amount of time when using the bathroom pass
- Getting out of your seat and wondering around the room



"I expect you all to be independent, innovative, critical thinkers who will do exactly as I say!"

ZERO TOLERANCE-CELL PHONE POLICY

Teens have a difficult time focusing in class and having the self discipline to do what's best for them academically. That being said, limiting distractions should be teachers and parents' priorities. Therefore, we will be following a strict no cell phone policy in U.S. History

Thomas Sherman, Virginia Tech professor of education says "There are already enough distractions; there's no need to add another." If a phone is seen or heard, it will be taken and given to the student's

building office. **No classroom cellphone warnings will be given.**

FHS Cell Phone Policies are as follows:

- 1st offense is an administrative warning and the phone is taken until end of the day
- 2nd offense is a detention and a parent/guardian must pick up the phone
- 3rd offense the student is assigned in school suspension and the phone may not

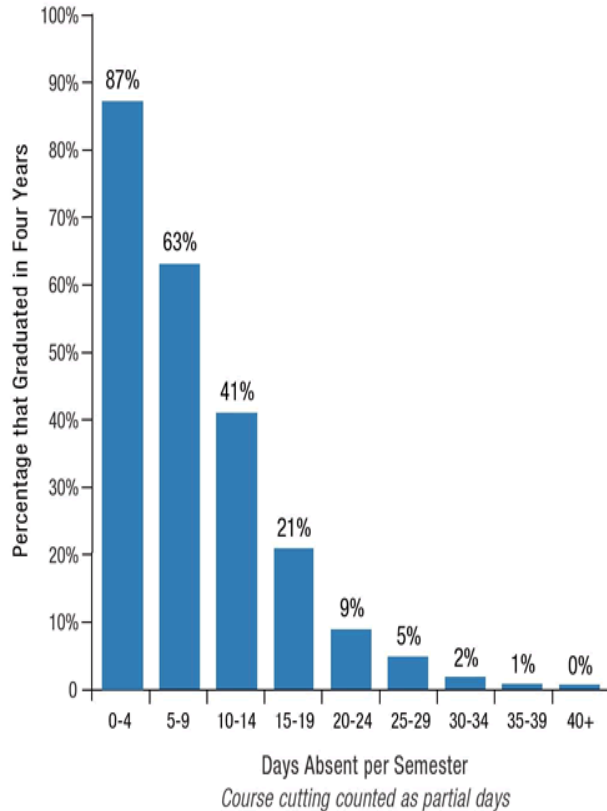
be picked up until the end of the school year

- Occasionally phones will be used for academic purposes. That is the only time phones are allowed to be used.
- No headphones either.



WHAT DO I DO IF I'M ABSENT?

Four-Year Graduation Rates by Freshman Absence Rates



- First, check my website to get your assignment/s.

absence was UNEXCUSED you will receive a ZERO on all assignments that were missed.

- When you return to school, update your Notebook "Table of Contents" and see what assignments you've missed.

- **Quizzes DO NOT have to be made up as long as your absence was excused.** If you were truant or tardy, and missed a quiz, you will be given a zero on the quiz.

- Ask a classmate to see their notebook. Copy the "starter" question.

- If you are absent on the day of a test, you must make up the test by appointment within the allotted time given by your teacher.

- Students are responsible for completing all "starters".

- Pick up handouts you missed from the boxes located on the whiteboards on the left side of the classroom. You can also get these off my website.

- Module homework, Notebooks, long term projects, essays, etc. due dates do not change. If you are absent days prior to the due date, the assignment is still due upon your return to school.

- An assignment that was due during an EXCUSED absence must be turned in one day after you return to school. If the

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR BEING TARDY?

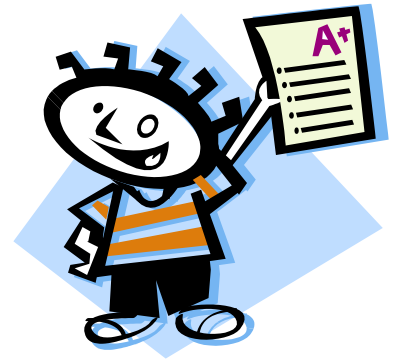


- ♦ You are considered tardy if you are not in your assigned seat when the bell rings.
- ♦ If you are 5 seconds tardy or 5 minutes tardy, you are tardy. You will be marked tardy on attendance.
- ♦ Freedom is using a new tardy system. More info to come...
- ♦ If you come to class LATE and your TARDY is UNEXCUSED, you MAY NOT take or make up the quiz you may have missed.
- ♦ Excessive tardies may also earn you a spot on the FHS non-activities list.



*What should I do if
I need a progress report signed?*

- Papers that need to be signed should be left by the teacher computer at the beginning of class
- **Do not interrupt other periods to get papers signed!**
- Please use Aeries/Parent Connect to check your grades frequently!



I NEED TO GO POTTY!

- You should use the restroom before school, at lunch, and between classes.
- No one will be allowed to leave during the first 15 minutes of class to use the bathroom.
- You must the pass to use the bathroom.
- Only one student is allowed out of class at a time.
- You must ask permission to leave. Don't just take the pass and go!
- Do not ask to go to the restroom during instruction or classroom discussion time.
- Abuse of the bathroom pass will result in bathroom privileges being taken away and /or a consequence given.



Should You Listen to Music While You Study?

Published September 10th 2012 by Sofia y Tickell USA Today Collegiate Correspondent

Headphones can seem ubiquitous in a college library, a function of responsible students' attempts to isolate themselves from the conversations and noises around them. However, another form of distraction may be coming right up those cables, and for some, it may be time to face [the music](#) — or more specifically, the lyrics.

"Music with lyrics is very likely to have a problematic effect when you're [writing](#) or reading," said Clifford Nass, professor at Stanford University. "Probably less of an effect on math, if you're not using the language parts of your brain."

Music has a profound impact on our state of being, altering everything from mood to heart rate. It can energize or depress us. Medium levels of arousal are ideal for studying — not too agitated and not too relaxed — and music can also be an effective tool in leading students to that level.



"Imagine trying to learn something while you're on a roller coaster," Nass said. "If you're feeling agitated, you can listen to more calming music, and that will absolutely have a positive effect."

Glenn Schellenberg, a professor in the psychology department at the University of Toronto, published a study that indicates fast, loud background music hinders reading comprehension.

"The reason why it's a mess is you have cognitive limitations. If you're doing two things at once you don't focus as well," he said. "On the other hand, we know that music changes how you feel, and often it can change how you feel in a positive way."

In other words, it seems carefully tailoring the music you listen to while studying, based on the subject matter and your mood, can help keep you focused — so long as you stay away from lyrics while doing language-based work.

Music has always had its place at college, but as it has become more portable and high quality, it is reaching areas where it never used to take up residence.

"In my day, there was no way you could take music to the library," Nass said. "When [today's students] go to the library to [study](#), they bring their noise, and music, with them."

In any case, music is very likely better than Facebook and Twitter, and in a world where multitasking has become extremely common because everything is on one device, some students find music helps keep them focused while studying.

"Especially when music doesn't have words, it can help me get into the reading and stop me getting distracted by other things," said Melanie Fineman, a junior at Brown University. "It makes studying more enjoyable."

Some more modern alternatives to the usual lyric-less Mozart:

- [Ratatat](#)
- [Paul Kalkbrenner](#)
- [Glitch Mob](#)
- [Tanghetto](#)
- [God Is An Astronaut](#)

**Put all listening devices
away!**

You MAY NOT listen to music
in D210!



Freedom High

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

August 2, 2017

As part of our U.S. History class, I will be showing portions of historical films through out the school year. These movies may include: The Patriot R, Roots, Glory R, Gettysburg PG, Far and Away R, Fly Boys PG13, Saving Private Ryan R 13 Days PG13, We Were Soldiers R, 42 PG13, PG13, Malcolm X R, The Butler PG13, Forrest Gump R, Unbroken, Selma, and various documentaries from Ken Burns, PBS, ABC News, and the History Channel.

For more information on movie ratings go to the Motion Picture Association of America Website at www.mpa.org. If you do not want your child to watch any of the above movies, please notify his/her teacher in writing. Per your written request, he/she will be placed in a different setting during the movie and receive an alternative assignment.

My child has permission to watch the above movies during U.S. History. I have also read the grading policies and classroom expectations and procedures for U.S. History. I am familiar with the FHS Student Handbook and all other school rules and discipline procedures. I have read and fully understand Mrs. Houston's U.S. History Online Module Homework, including how to access the website, how to complete the homework, how to access/use 'Turn It In', and the grading requirements.

_____ **PRINT** student's name

_____ parent/guardian signature

_____ student signature