Ms. Witkowski’s US History Syllabus.

The preparatory United States History course is designed to prepare students for a comprehensive social studies TAKS exit test to be given in the spring. The class includes examination of major themes and concepts in U.S. History, including past and contemporary problems and democratic attempts at solutions. Students will use a survey textbook and selected historical documents as resources. Students will be expected to develop a personal reservoir of factual knowledge in order to exercise analytic skills intelligently. Students will be expected to read and interpret maps, charts, cartoons, graphs, and primary resources such as personal diaries, political speeches, literary selections, contracts, and newspaper or other media reports.

Materials: You will need a three ring binder notebook, dividers, pens, map pencils, and paper.

Textbook: American Nation. You are required to bring a text book to class each day.

Notebook: Your notebook is your record of work in this class. You will copy objectives, assignments, and journal topics from the board daily.

The notebook will be divided into the following sections: Objectives, Notes, Handouts, Question of the Day, Returned Work.

Grades: You will have the opportunity to earn a grade almost every day. Major tests and major projects will count as 60% and all other grades will be 40%. Graded activities will include written essays, presentations, class work, homework, and quizzes. Social Studies testing days are Tuesday and Friday. If you are absent you will need to make up all assignments and tests in a timely manner to receive a grade for them.

Behavior: You are high school students and know by now how to behave in the classroom. Follow all class and house rules.

Contact Information: E-mail – awitkows@houstonisd.org
Phone – 281.920.8000 ext 6044
Conference period – 1st
Tutorials – Mondays, and Wednesdays from 3:15 – 4:00

Class Policies:
1. Bring all supplies everyday.
2. Take care of all errands before class begins. This is the time for you to use the Restroom. Restroom passes will only be given out for emergencies.
3. Arrive to class on time. You must be in your seat, working on the bell work when the tardy bell rings. The tardy policy will follow the policy that has been set out in the Westside Way.

4. When you arrive in class complete the Question of the Day on the board. Under the Question of the Day (QOTD) tab of your notebook, write down the date, the learning objectives, and the Question of the Day, and any homework that may be listed. This needs to be done for each day, even the days when you are absent from my class (ask a friend/neighbor for the Question of the Day for the day you were absent).

5. You will also copy down the objective of the day under the Objective tab in your notebook. If there are any notes for the day, you will copy them down under the Notes tab in your notebook.

6. On all your work, write your name, date, and period. This is for your benefit as well as mine.

7. If you are absent, you must take it upon yourself to get all makeup work completed. This includes your notes, activities, quizzes, tests, etc. If you missed an assignment, you have three (3) school days to turn it in. Failure to make up a test will result in a zero for the test.

8. Assignments must be turned in on time. **No late work will be accepted.**

9. You may have a bottle of water in class (unless the school policy changes). No other gum or candy/food is allowed, unless it is handed out by the teacher.

10. I do not give large extra credit assignments at the end of the term; however, I give you the chance to earn bonus point throughout the year on assignments. Outstanding work will be rewarded!

11. **No cell phones, IPODs, CD players, radios, etc… in class.** They will be taken, and the policy that is stated in the Westside Way will be followed.

**Units that will be studied this year:**

Unit 1  The Gilded Age
Unit 2  Age of Imperialism and Reform
Unit 3  World War I
Unit 4  The Roaring 20’s
Unit 5  The Great Depression

**FALL SEMESTER FINALS**

Unit 6  Rise of Totalitarianism
Unit 7  America and World War II
Unit 8  The Cold War
Unit 9  American Democracy in Action

Unit 10  The Struggle for Civil Rights
         And the Turbulent 60’s
Unit 11  America Moves to the 21st Century
SPRING SEMESTER FINALS

I have read and discussed syllabus with my parents/guardians, and understand all policies, procedures, and the grading system in Ms. Witkowski’s class.
Date _____________________

Student Name (printed) _____________________________________________
Student Signature _________________________________________________

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I have read and discussed syllabus with my student, and understand all policies, procedures, and the grading system in Ms. Witkowski’s classroom. I also agree to receive periodic updates via email &/or phone regarding the status of my child in class.

Date _____________________
Parent Name (printed) ______________________________________________
Parent Signature __________________________________________________
Parent Email _____________________________________________________
Parent phone _____________________________________________________
Preferred communication: (  ) phone  (  ) email  (  ) other ______________

This form needs to be returned to Ms. Witkowski’s class no later than Friday, August 31, 2007. **This form is worth a daily grade for the first six weeks!**