

United States History & Government

2020-2021 School year

Mr. Gill

Hello Parents and Guardians,

My name is Jim Gill and I am your child's U.S. History and Government teacher. The past six months have been challenging in many ways. We were compelled to make adjustments to our daily lives. Our society and government have been consumed by the COVID- 19 pandemic, political demonstrations, social unrest and Presidential election campaigns. This course provides an opportunity for your child to develop historical contexts regarding how the nation has arrived at this point.

The course develops your child's critical thinking, discussion and writing skills. The lessons will not only help your child successfully complete the course, which as of now is still scheduled to end with a New York State Regents Exam, but will also provide them with important skills and knowledge that will be beneficial to them as young adults outside of the classroom environment.

As the school year begins we will be using a combination of in person, synchronous classes and asynchronous recorded lessons and homework activities. All assignments will be posted in their Google classroom. All students and parents should have received an invitation to join the class. Please let me know if you have not received one. I will also utilize my high school website to post review materials such as vocabulary lists, test prep activities and helpful links.

Each quarter is worth 20% of your child's overall grade and the Regents exam is also worth 20% of the overall grade. Within each quarter, the grade is based on a point accumulation system. For example, a student earning 400 of a possible 500 will have an 80% average. A course outline is provided on the following page.

Your support is important and appreciated. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me. My phone number is 256- 4175 ext. 69522 and my email address is jgill@newpaltz.k12.ny.us . Together we can provide the support to help your child display their resilience, flexibility and commitment towards a successful school year.

Sincerely,

James E. Gill

Course Outline:

Unit 1: Colonial Foundations: 1609- 1775

Unit 2: Constitutional Foundations: 1776- 1799

Unit 3: Expansion, Nationalism and Sectionalism: 1800- 1861

Unit 4: Civil War and Post Civil War Era: 1861- 1900

Unit 5: Industrialization and Urbanization: 1870- 1920

Unit 6: Rise of American Power: 1890- 1920

Unit 7: Prosperity and Depression: 1920-1939

Unit 8: World War Two: 1935- 1945

Unit 9: The Cold War: 1945-1991

Unit 10: The Civil Rights Movement: “Power to the People” 1945- Present

Unit 11: Recent Social, Economic and Political Changes: 1992- Present

Textbook: United States History and Government: New York State Edition- (McGraw-Hill Education 2018)