COURSE: The American Presidency

TEACHER: Mr. Pratt

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TEXTBOOKS:

The American Presidency: Origins & Developments 1776-2002

Presidential Leadership: Rating the Best and the Worst in the White House

Course Overview:

The American Presidency is a course designed as a comprehensive study into the history of the American presidency and the role this prestigious office has played in shaping this nation’s political, economic, and foreign policy. The course will begin with a look at the various pre-determined powers and limitations of the Presidency set forth by the Founding Fathers, including an evaluation of the ten specific functions of the President of the United States. The course will then examine the process and the procedures of hiring a president from campaigns to conventions right through nominations to inaugurations as well as the procedures for firing a president, paying specific attention to the process of impeachment. The course will next transition into a discussion and/or analysis of the various political roles of the Presidency, specifically the President’s relationship to Congress, the Supreme Court, his Cabinet, and the image that he has presented to the American public throughout different periods in American history. Finally, the course will take a look at the various personalities of the individuals who have had the prestigious honor of working in the Oval Office. From George Washington through George W. Bush, this course will look into the campaigns, the elections, the policies, the personalities, the achievements, the failures, and the scandals of those individuals who have influenced and shaped America’s political history.

Students will investigate the course content through extensive readings of Texts, primary source materials, specifically inaugural addresses and presidential doctrines as well as a variety of news sources. Students will also engage in simulations, research, oral and written reports, as well as projects and class discussions. Students will also demonstrate the ability to use technology as a tool to enhance their investigation and application in the appropriate areas of the curriculum. Active class participation is essential to success in this class which is designed to investigate, analyze, and identify those presidents who should be considered great or near great as well as those presidents whose administrations might be considered a disappointment and/or failure.
Course Objectives
Students will:

- Demonstrate effective leadership skills: communicating (oral and written), critical thinking, creative problem solving, information processing, using a variety of perspectives.
- Contribute to class activities with the intensity, respect, and leadership expected of students at Tantasqua Regional Senior High School.
- Recognize the role of human decision making, both large and small, in the direction of history.
- Analyze & Evaluate the personalities and politics of those who have occupied the Oval Office

Course Content:

- The Constitutional Presidency: Origins, Creation, & Powers of the Presidency
- Implementing The Early Constitutional Presidency- Washington & Adams
- The Presidency in Infancy- Jeffersonianism
- The Age of Jackson
- The Presidency of Abraham Lincoln
- The Roots of the Modern Presidency
- The New Deal & The Expanding Presidency
- The Contemporary Presidency
- George W. Bush, Barrack Obama & The Future of the Presidency
- The Presidency and the Supreme Court

Course Requirements:

- Homework assignments
- Notebooks
- Essays
- Reflection papers
- Projects
- Oral Presentations
- Presidential Roundtable
- The Situation Room Simulations
- Tests
- Quizzes
- Class participation

Course Evaluation Criteria

- The grade for each quarter is determined by the total number of points that the student has achieved over the total number of points that were available to the student.

Field Trip:

John F. Kennedy Presidential Museum
Course Expectations

- Class Preparation: Students are expected to bring their textbook, a notebook, and a pen/pencil with them to class each day.
- Homework will be given just about every night. Homework is given as an aid in understanding the concepts and ideas presented in class. In most cases homework will be extensive reading assignments.
- Attendance Policy: As described in the Student Handbook (pages 39-40)
- Make-Up Work: Assignments handed in late, for reasons other than an excused absence, will never receive full credit.
- Extra-Help/Test Make-Up: Either before or after school. The student is responsible for making those arrangements. Tests should be made up within one calendar week of returning to school.

FINAL GRADE:

- Quarter 1 Grade – 40%
- Quarter 2 Grade – 40%
- Final Exam Grade – 20%

Classroom Behavior & Rules

Students are expected to maintain appropriate classroom behavior. Students are expected to follow their teacher’s directions and classroom policies. Class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend each class on time on a daily basis. If a student must miss a class for a justified reason, he or she must first obtain the teachers permission. Students are expected to arrive to class in a timely manner. Tardiness to class is disruptive and detracts from other students' educational experience.

Classroom rules

1) NO Gum
2) NO Walkmans, headphones, MP3 players or any other type of musical device.
3) Hats must be taken off before the start of class.
4) NO cell phones – all cell phones MUST be turned off prior to the start of class.

Academic Integrity:

Cheating is defined as the act of using or attempting to use, in examinations or other academic work, material, information, or study aids that are not permitted by the teacher. Cheating is an unacceptable form of behavior. It casts a shadow of doubt on the credibility of one’s academic performance preceding the cheating incident, and may have a direct effect on how people perceive you for consideration of future awards, honors or letters of recommendation.

Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:

1) Obtaining, providing or using unauthorized information/data during an examination, verbally, visually, electronically, or by notes, books, or other materials.
2) Acquiring, possessing, or providing to others, examinations or other course materials without authorization of the teacher.
3) Submitting for course credit the same work or substantial portions of the same work in two different classes without prior approval of the teachers.
4) Fabricating information without the permission of the teacher for any report or other academic exercise.
5) Using electronic devices to receive or distribute exam questions or answers

Plagiarism is defined as representing another person’s words, ideas, data, or work as one’s own without acknowledging the source. Whether the source is copyrighted or not, printed or recorded, or a paper used by another student; if it is used without recognizing the source, plagiarism exists. The guiding principle is that all work submitted must be properly credited to the original source(s) of the information. In written work, direct quotations, statements that are paraphrased, summarizations of the work of another and other information which is not considered common knowledge must be acknowledged and cited, usually in the form of a footnote/endnote. Quotation marks and the proper form of identification shall be used to indicate direct quotations. MLA Format is the proper acceptable citation format at Tantasqua Regional Senior High School. Plagiarism within a library or research paper may render it unacceptable with failure resulting.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
1) Using someone else’s ideas without citations.
2) Using portions of the work of another, either word-for-word or paraphrased, without proper citation.
3) Using the outline and bibliography of another person’s paper.
4) Misrepresenting an entire paper as your own work (e.g., using an entire paper from a previous semester, turning in another student’s work, copying a paper from a source text without proper acknowledgment, etc…)
5) Obtaining information from the Internet and using it without attribution or quotation.

Penalties: A student found in violation of academic integrity will lose credit for the assignment in question at the discretion of the teacher. In such cases, the teacher will contact the student’s parent or guardian and notify the assistant principal. A repeated offense will yield increased sanctions.

(Information for the above policy was obtain through the Tantasqua Student Handbook & Idaho State University Handbook)

Tantasqua Regional High School’s Mission Statement:
Pathways to Success

Academic Expectations

• Assume responsibility for academic achievement.
• Acquire, interpret, analyze, integrate, and apply information in a discerning manner.
• Demonstrate the ability to use technology appropriate to subject areas
• Exhibit the ability to read, write, and communicate
**Student/Parent Acknowledgement**

Your signature indicates that you understand the terms of these expectation sheets and know what is expected of you for the successful completion of this course. Please keep these sheets in your notebook and refer to them whenever you have any questions concerning the course.

Student Signature ___________________________________   Date ________________

Your signature indicates that you have had the opportunity to read these expectation sheets and discussed the expectations with your son or daughter. I thank you for your cooperation, and please do not hesitate to call me at the high school (508) 347-9301 X3111 should you have any questions or concerns about your child’s progress or if you would like to make an appointment to see me.

Parent/Guardian Signature ______________________________   Date ______________