***New York and United States Government* mperry*@oleanschools.org***

**The first step to knowledge is to know we are ignorant.**

~ Cecil ~

**Overview:**

This course will explore the growth and development of the United States of America. We will study the history of our nation in order to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be Americans. From this course you will gain the knowledge that will provide you with the tools to become a well informed and responsible citizen. You will gain an understanding of our past, the significant individuals, the policies, and the battles the United States has endured to become the preeminent power in today’s world.

**Participation Policy**

Students will be evaluated each day based on the following criteria.

1. Were present
2. Brought a writing utensil
3. Actively worked on tasks \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Were respectful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Positive contribution to class

Cell phone/ear bud use will result in points taken away and a discipline referral.

**Absentee Policy**

Student is responsibility to obtain **all** work, assignments, notes, or handouts missed during absence.

* Tests/Quizzes missed must be made in one weeks’ time.
* Assignments must be submitted the day after you were given the work \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + We will only find success if we are present, be present. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED**

Assignments and participation are the currency of our class. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Want a grade for the assignment? Do the work \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Assignment not completed on time? No grade will be given.

**Cell Phones**

* Cell phones will not be tolerated in class.
  + We have a Regents Exam!
  + You will be a voter someday, learn our democratic virtues. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Be present and attentive in class. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      * Cell phones decrease our attention span.

**Cheating**

Copying other people’s work will result in a zero for the participants.

* I need to know what you do and do not understand \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Do not fear being wrong \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Fear being ignorant and replaceable.
  + Great discoveries were only made through trial and error

**Grading will be done in points**

* Class work/Homework/Participation = Points earned go in once
* Tests/Quizzes/Projects = Points earned go in twice

**He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever.**   
~ [Chinese Proverb](http://www.worldofquotes.com/author/Chinese-Proverb/1/index.html) ~

**To be ignorant of what happened before you were born is to remain always a child.**

**~ Cicero ~**

**Required Materials:**   
A ***writing utensil***

* You probably have the fanciest cell phone, why am I paying for your pens and pencils?
  + Prioritize your education!
  + What message does it say when you come to class unprepared?

Bring your laptop everyday!

***Respect***

Intolerance, will under no circumstances, be accepted! We will discuss many topics; you are not expected to agree with each comment made but you are expected to respect the feeling of others.

* “Love everyone” ~ Big Kenny

Placing your head on the desk is a sign of disrespect and will not be tolerated!

* Sick?
  + Ask to go to the nurse.
* Tired?
  + Put your cell phone away at night and go to bed earlier.

Keep the room clean! If you bring something in take it out. If you move something, put it back!

* We recycle! Paper and plastic in the recycling bin.
* We are stewards of the earth; its’ time humanity started acting like the world was not disposable.

No cell phones!

* Google the answer to life’s problems in your own time.

It is my responsibility to ensure that you receive a proper understanding of American History, if I do not enforce the above rules, I would be doing you a disservice. Therefore all of the above policies will be enforced regardless of whether you like them or not. With that in mind, understand that I will always respect your beliefs, so long as they do not infringe on the rights of others. I will be available to you before and after school. I am always willing to speak with a parent or guardian, please do not hesitate to contact me. Email is the best way for me to stay in contact so I ask that you provide an email address through which I can reach you.

I look forward to a very successful year for all of us. Attendance, effort, and communication are key elements in creating a successful environment. Remember a problem that is not voiced cannot be corrected.

I have read Mr. Perry's syllabus and I agree to abide by it.

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Student Name (printed) Student Signature

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Parent/Guardian Signature Parent/Guardian's Email address and Telephone number

**I don’t think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday.**

**~ Abraham Lincoln ~**