

# The American Experience

## Classroom Info

Teacher: Alison McLin

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Website:

<http://mclinamericanexperience.weebly.com/>

**Description:** Through an inquiry-based study of American narratives using artifacts (novels, films, poems, primary source documents, short stories, and others), *The American Experience* integrates the disciplines of English and Social Studies. Key questions about the American experience help unify the course by erasing disciplinary distinctions between Social Studies and English; attempting to answer these key questions, students ~ and instructors ~ pursue a

larger understanding of what it means to be an American. Learning activities include reading, research, composition, reflection, and oral presentation, in both individual and collaborative modes.

## OVERVIEW OF COURSE WORK:

All work is graded on a point system. Classwork is roughly 50% of the overall grade, with approximately 50% for tests. (The Final is worth roughly 20% of the semester grade). Grades are determined by dividing the total number of points you have achieved by the total number of points possible. Grades will be determined on a cumulative basis for the entire semester.

## PARTICIPATION POINTS:

Students receive 3 participation points each day. These points are worth roughly one grade. Points will be deducted for non-academic behavior such as low levels of participation, excessive chatting, 'phone use, eating, tardiness, profanity, classroom disruption or insubordination. Excessive tardies will result in after school detention; failing to attend detention will result in a zero for that day's work.

## ATTENDANCE

- Truants** – unable to make-up work assigned on that day.
- Tardies** – lose that day's participation points. Excessive tardies will result in after school detention; failing to attend detention will result in a zero for that day's work.

## MAKE UP POLICY and LATE WORK:

### Classwork

Late work (not excused absence) may be turned in for 50% credit within a week (3 classes) of the due date. Students must come to me to request submission for work more than one week late and **must have a valid reason** for being so late.

**No late work will be accepted after a grading period has passed.**

### Chapter & Unit Tests

Students must take a test within 2 classes of coming back to class. Half credit will be awarded for tests made up more than 2 classes after coming back to class.

## Class Materials

- Pencils & pens
- Colored pencils
- Highlighters
- Notebook & binder
- Glue or tape

Be prepared!

Grading Scale

Grading Scale	
100%-90%	A
89%-80%	B
79%-70%	C
69%-60%	D
59% and below	F

### Grade Percentages

Classwork/Homework	30%
Tests and Quizzes	25%
Classroom Projects	25%
Midterm/Final Exam	10%
Participation	10%
Semester Points	100%