

American History II • E.A. Laney High School

Mr. Jack E. Fryar, Jr.

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Website: <http://jackfryarsclass.weebly.com>. Please use email whenever possible – it's the best way to get in touch with me. *If you do have to phone, please try to do so before 9pm!* Do not hesitate to communicate with me via email or otherwise. If you are struggling with the readings, or with anything else pertaining to the course, come see me

Course Description

American History II at the high school level continues where American History I leaves off. From the Westward Expansion after the Civil War, to the Gilded Age, Progressive Era, both World Wars, the Civil Rights Movement, all the way to challenges we face in modern times, we will explore the rich past that has made us who we are as a nation. Lectures, readings, discussions, and assignments will delve into these histories and their influences on American history and thought.

Assignments and Grading • You must complete ALL assignments to pass the course. Your final grade will be determined by: Participation • Class work • Homework • Weekly Quizzes/Puzzles • Unit Tests • Weekly Facebook posts • Semester Multimedia Project • Extra Credit Participation. ***If you hand in everything I assign, even if it is not perfect, it will be virtually impossible to fail this class!***

Attendance, Reading, and Participation: Attendance of all classes is expected, as well as the on-time completion of all readings. Readings will be assigned from the textbook, from online sources, or provided for you, usually as printed handouts. I expect you to have completed all readings for a class by the time class meets. Needless to say, I expect you to not merely show up but to actively participate in these discussions with regular, thoughtful contributions.

Weekly Quizzes, Crosswords, and Unit Tests: You will be quizzed just about every week to assess how well you have absorbed the things we talked about over the previous days. **Quizzes** will usually consist of some multiple-choice answers. Alternatively, you may be graded on the completion of **crossword puzzles** for material/vocabulary covered in class instead of a quiz (but you will not be graded on both a quiz and puzzle during the same week). **Unit tests** will happen on either a Tuesday or Thursday after we have covered all of the material for a given unit of learning.

Semester Project: You are required to produce a semester project that explores some aspect of the course material. You may choose from a number of projects listed on the American History II Resources page of the class website (www.jackfryarsclass.weebly.com). Or, you may produce a project of your own invention with prior approval from me. **You must choose your topic within the time limit I give you. You will have more time to decide exactly what form your project will take, but the topic must be selected by this date to insure you have time to complete it.** *This project counts as much as three unit tests (300 points), so put some effort into it.*

Extra Credit:

• **Facebook posts/comments:** Students who select stories/posts to comment on at <https://www.facebook.com/TheWorldHistoryTimeline/> or

<https://www.facebook.com/CarolinaChroniclesMagazine/> will earn an extra credit grade (you must make at least three substantive comments per week – on average – to receive full extra credit). These points will be added to their final grade per quarter.

• **Special Events Attendance:** Students who attend certain special events, such as lectures at UNCW, local history re-enactments, etc., can earn extra credit that will replace their lowest grade worth 10 points (these include most homework, puzzles, etc.). The student must find Mr. Fryar at the event to check in, and after the event provide Mr. Fryar with a simple one-page write up about what the event was about and what they took away from it.

General Policies

Attendance Policy: I expect you to attend every class. **For guidance on what is or is not an excused absence, refer to the E.A. Laney High School website or the Student Handbook.** I understand that emergencies and unexpected problems happen. In that case, please communicate with me and we will work together on a reasonable solution. ***But please understand your success depends on your being in class!***

Academic Honesty: Cheating will turn out bad for you. I expect you to be honorable, honest, and trustworthy. All your work for this class must be your own, or must clearly indicate and properly cite your reliance on outside material. This includes websites, Cliff notes, etc. I take cheating very seriously and I will catch you: in most cases a simple Google search can tell me if you have cheated. If you have any questions about this policy or are unclear about proper citation strategies and how to cite, get in touch with me.

Electronics Policy: As for cell phones: please turn them off while in class and don't even think about texting. Cell phone/computer/pda use is allowed only when I say you can use them. **If the use of your phone or other electronic devices becomes distracting – that means for me, your classmates, or if I judge that it prevents you from focusing on what we are doing in class – I will confiscate your phone and you can claim it from the front office at the end of the day.** If I catch you looking up test or quiz answers on your phones, or even suspect that you are doing so, you will also face phone confiscation, and receive a failing grade for that test or quiz.

Classroom Behavior: You are all young adults, and I expect you to comport yourself in a way that your parents would be proud of. You should come to class ready to work, to improve yourself by learning more about the world we live in, and by becoming a better-rounded person. *If you are disruptive in class, you will not be allowed to stay in class.* **Sooner or later all of us have to choose the kind of person we will be in this life. Qualities like honor, integrity, honesty, work ethic, and being as good as your word matter. I hope you choose well what kind of person you will be.**

****This course addresses NC Essential Standards requirements and learning outcomes as listed here:**

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/social-studies/world.pdf>

****ATTENTION!** This syllabus is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class. You are responsible for keeping track of announcements and assignments given in class. Calendar & Pacing Schedule will be posted on Mr. Fryar's website at <http://jackfryarsclass.weebly.com>**