United States History & the Constitution

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Hello,  
My name is Michael Bruton and I will be you or your child’s United States History teacher this year. I am excited to get to know each of my students and have some exciting things planned as we explore the history of the United States from colonial times to modern day.

U.S. History and the Constitution is an upper-level course offering a comprehensive view of the foundation and development of the United States. The course covers four hundred years of American history in a relatively small amount of time. It is fast-paced and, as a requirement for graduation, an important part of your or your child’s high-school career. If at any time you have any questions about classwork, grades, or missing work, do not hesitate to contact me at [mbruton@dorchestr2.k12.sc.us](mailto:mbruton@dorchestr2.k12.sc.us) or peruse www.brutonteaches.com for things like missing work, notes or presentations from class, and information on assignments and due dates.

Please view the following procedures, rules, and expectations below for more information on a successful year!

**Classroom Policies and Procedures**  
Classroom procedures are an important part of our classroom. Being on time, prepared, and cognizant of what is going on every day is paramount. Following classroom procedures will help ensure a smooth, fun school year. Below you will find procedures for daily work in our classroom.

**Cellphones and other electronic devices**Cell phones are an incredible distraction. To prevent any misunderstandings, it is expected that cell phones, headphones, or any other electronic devices be placed on silent and out of sight BEFORE entering the classroom.

**Attendance and Tardiness**  
Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. Students not in the classroom before the tardy bell will be marked absent. Students who enter the classroom after the tardy bell must place their tardy pass in my hand or in the tardy pass box at the front of the room. Students entering and leaving the room outside of traditional passing time must make an entry in the tardy log. Students lacking tardy passes will not be admitted. Students who fail to turn in their pass to the tardy box will remain marked absent.

**Turning in Work**  
All work is due on the due date at the BEGINNING of class on the due date. As students enter the room, they will turn in their assignment to the plastic bin corresponding with their class. Any work turned in after I collect it at the beginning of the class on the due date will be considered late.

No late work will be accepted without the submission of a correctly completed late work form. Any student wishing to turn in late work must complete a late work form, attach it to their work, and turn it into the late work bin in the classroom. Each student will have as many days to complete missing work as they missed class with an EXCUSED absence Work turned in after the due date with no excused absence will receive a penalty of 10% per day up to 5 days- after which it will not be accepted.

**Making Up Missing Work**  
Students who miss days of class, including those serving both in-school and out-of-school suspensions, are responsible for getting the work they missed. Suspensions do not count as an excused absence for late work.

Absent students or parents wishing to see what is happening in class are invited to go to [www.brutonteaches.com](http://www.brutonteaches.com). There, you will be able to access class assignments, instructions, directions, review materials, Powerpoint presentations, and due dates. Assignments will be available there for printing. This is your first resource when coming back after missing time in class.

Students with *excused* absences are permitted the number of days they missed to make up the work. Absences left unexcused are considered cuts and are not eligible for late turn-in. Students who missed major tests due to absence have no more than five school days from when the test was administered to make it up.

**Bathrooms**Students should use the bathroom in passing time. The teacher will not issue bathroom passes during the first or last ten minutes of class. Only one student is permitted to use the bathroom at a time.

**Materials**Students should show up to class prepared to work every single day. To help keep you organized, I suggest the following materials\*:

1. A sturdy three-ring binder
2. A spiral notebook devoted exclusively to this class
3. Writing utensils
4. Dividers for organization

If you are unable to procure some or all of these items, I do have a limited supply. First come, first serve!

**Grading Policies**Grades will be determined through a combination of class and homework, quizzes, and tests.

Class/Home Work: 20%   
Quizzes: 30%  
Tests: 50%

Students unhappy with their grade on a test are eligible to take make up test. All make up tests will be different than the original test, must be taken in the classroom in full view of the teacher during ILT, and the student keeps the grade of the most recent test. STUDENTS MAY NOT choose which grade to keep.

**Formatting**Formatting assignments is important as it helps to keep both teacher and student organized. Neat, properly formatted papers should include the following:  
  
Name:   
Date assigned:  
Due Date:   
Class Period/Assignment

All assignments must meet the following requirements:

1. The above heading
2. Turned in on a full, clean sheet of paper with the fringes removed if torn out of a notebook (no scraps, reused, or crumpled papers please)
3. All questions have been copied before being answered.
4. Handwriting is neat and easily legible. (If you want to make Mr. Bruton really happy, typing an assignment is always welcome).

Every instance of a formatting error will result in 2 points subtracted from the final grade up to one full letter grade (ten points).

I look forward to getting to know you over the course of this year. We will be exploring some interesting stuff in our U.S. History class. If you have any questions about what you have read above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks and welcome back!