



**Oliver Ames High School  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade American Studies I -Mr. Kerr**

**Course Rules and Routines**

**I. Course Description:**

Welcome to your first year at Oliver Ames High School, I will not be the first or last teacher to tell you with great emphasis that your next two years are the most important ones in academia. The stress and challenge of getting accepted to an excellent college should hold you accountable both academically and behaviorally in all your classes. This course will be a survey of early American history spanning from the Colonial Period through Reconstruction emphasizing the fundamentals of economics, geography, social movements integrated into the historical context. The course materials will be organized regionally, chronologically and thematically. Students will be required to read from the textbook, primary documents (almost always available through the **course website: sskerrclass.net**, and supplemental secondary sources. Readings, homework and assessment are designed to develop higher critical thinking, research, and persuasive writing skills. A primary focus will be for students to interpret historical reference materials and at times apply them to contemporary social, economic, and political issues. Throughout the year the course will follow the MCAS learning standards for American History I, and live up to the Academic Expectations of Oliver Ames High School.

In addition to the content of the course, we will dedicate time to sharpening our skills in reading, group presentations, and writing, specifically: paragraphs, outlines, three part formal analytical essays, formal research and citations, test-taking, graphic organizers, class discussions, debates and critical thinking. There will be a major research paper in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. This will be a challenging class! I have high expectations for all of you, so get ready to work hard and exceed your own expectations for learning.

The following two quotations will serve as anchors for our class, and provide a beginning to your own answers to the question, which will inevitably arise at some point during this course- “Why do we have to learn this?”

*History above all, means perspective – the view of human events in their total setting of time, place, and institutions.* - Robert V. Daniels

*History’s greatest tradition is to help us understand ourselves, and our world so that each of us, individually and in conjunction with our fellow wo/men, can formulate relevant and reasoned alternatives and become meaningful actors in making history.*

- W.A. Williams

**II. Rules:**

In order to provide a safe and productive learning environment for all of us, the Social/Civic Expectations for Learning at OAHS that are listed in the OAHS Student Handbook and are posted in every classroom shall be followed at All Times. If you choose to break one of these rules, you are violating the classroom environment. In addition to the, I just have one phrase that I want to become your mantra:

**BE NICE!**

**III. “Just 17, Know What I Mean...” Routines:**

**Behavior**

1. All cell phones, ipods, gameboys...must be either deposited into the cubby system as you enter class, or put completely away! If you are caught using any of these devices during a test, it will be assumed that you are cheating and you will receive a 0 on the test/quiz/DBQ.
2. Please try to use the bathroom before or after class.
3. School OAHS passes will be given out very sparingly, but must be used.

### Attendance

4. You are expected to arrive to class on time. Refer to handbook for further details.
5. If you are absent from school you are responsible for obtaining all missed notes, and scheduling a time to take any make-up tests or quizzes. Use email and the course website: [saskerrclass.net](http://saskerrclass.net)

### Homework

6. No late homework will be accepted, unless you have an excused absence. Don't think that you are going to just turn in most of your homework at the end of the term. Keep up with it!
7. Very often the homework/readings will be available on the course website: [saskerrclass.net](http://saskerrclass.net) Become familiar with this site, your consistent use of it will be a vital part of the course!

### Grading

8. There are no re-takes for quizzes, tests, or in-class essays.
9. There are no re-do's for class presentations or projects.
10. However, if your take-home written work receives anything below a C+ you will have the opportunity to do a rewrite in terms I-II. Your rewrite grade will replace your original grade, but cannot exceed a B. Therefore, if you receive a B or higher you may not rewrite your paper.
11. The Grading System is as follows:  
I will be using a cumulative point system with each Term = ~500 points. Your overall grade is comprised of 5 parts, each being 20% [the 4 Term Grades + the average of your MY/F Exams].

Point Values Range from:

Homework	= 5-20 points
Quizzes, Term Participation, Class Discussions, Turned-in HW	= 20-40pts.
Paragraphs, Quests	= 50-75 pts.
Tests, In-Class Essays, Outlines	= 100 pts.
Take-Home Essays	= 150 pts.
Term Projects	= 200 pts.
Research Project (Term IV)	= 200 pts.
Mid-Year Exam	= 10% Final Grade
Final Exam	= 10% Final Grade

### Class Preparation & Participation

12. Being Organized and Ready for class every day is about 80% of the work. Being ready means: being on-time (beat the bell); immediately pulling out your binder, a pen or pencil, highlighter and your homework at your assigned seat; being ready to engage, participate and listen throughout class. Absolutely NO profanity, racist, sexist or homophobic comments will be tolerated. Period!!!
13. It is expected that you will seek extra help either before or after school in order to better understand the material, complete assignments, and or to make-up work missed during an absence from class. Your grade is what you earn, it belongs to you, you are, therefore, responsible for it. I will not ask or require students to stay after school, but if you ask me individually, or as a group, I will almost always be available for extra help.

### Materials

14. 2 pens (blue or black), 2 pencils, 2 highlighters, replace as needed.
15. 1 sturdy single subject spiral bound notebook 100-150 pages/ college ruled for each term.
16. 1 2-pocket folder for each term. **This is a cumulative course, do not throw work away!**
17. Colored pencils for maps

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_/Parent-Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

\* I am looking forward to an outstanding year! My email address is [ckerr@easton.k12.ma.us](mailto:ckerr@easton.k12.ma.us)