

Syllabus and Introduction to Modern U.S. History

Mr. Sommer

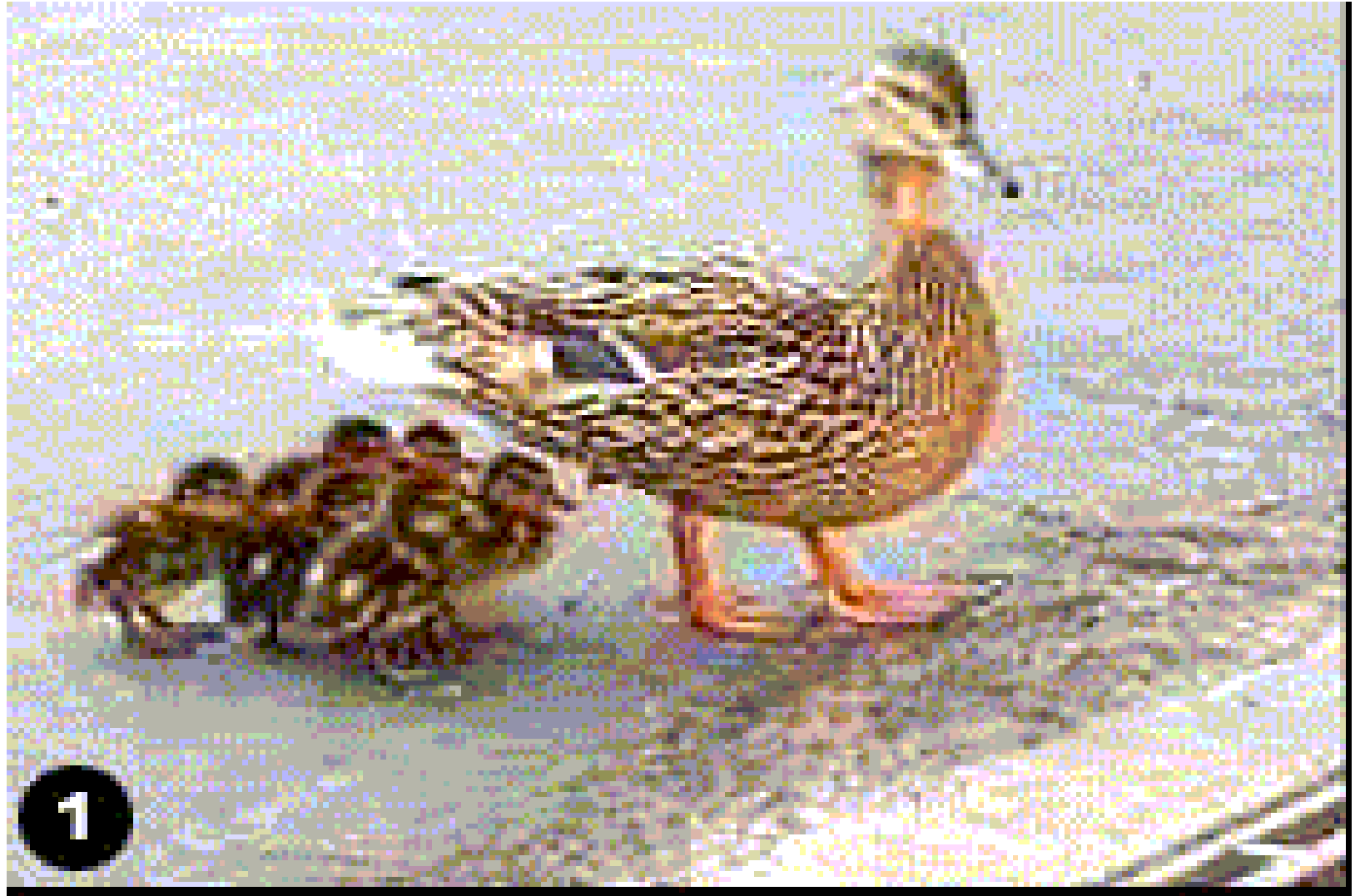
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We are in this together!

Education is a partnership. I will work hard to be prepared and to facilitate your growth as a student. You must provide an open mind and a willingness to engage me, fellow students and the curriculum.

Our partnership might
look like this...

Mr. Sommer and his U.S. History class!



Marching through the curriculum



They were with me a second ago...



Taking Risks

Teaching and learning can be compared to jumping out of a plane:

Taking Risks

These actions require courage, thoughtfulness, and confidence in the outcomes.

Taking Risks

After we jump (start the year/class/activity) we search for a feeling of security (the parachute has opened) and we will drift to our predetermined place.

Taking Risks

We believe, that in all likelihood, all will go well and that we will have a relatively smooth landing.

Sometimes people who take risks struggle and wind up far off course.



Take risks anyway because...

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.

Winston Churchill

Success.



Syllabus and Expectations for Modern U.S. History

Social Studies Department Mission Statement

- We teach students the content knowledge, intellectual skills, and civic responsibilities necessary for fulfilling the duties of lifelong citizenship in a participatory democracy. These skills include communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creative problem solving, and capable learning.

Course Description

- Students are required to have 1 credit of US History. This course is a survey of the political, economic, social, cultural, and diplomatic history of the United States with a primary focus on the 20th Century to our present day. Content may include, but not be limited to, the late 19th Century movements of reconstruction, destruction of the American Indian cultures, immigration, progressivism, empire-building, industrialization, isolationism, the Great Depression, America as a world power, the World Wars, the Cold War, civil rights, and the information age. Activities in the course may include the reading and analysis of literature and primary documents, research, debate, simulations, lecture, interviews, and speakers.

Learning Outcomes

Students completing this course will be able to:

- Frame a research question
- Demonstrate an understanding of historical chronology
- Use historical data to support an argument or position
- Interpret and apply data from primary source documents, including political cartoons, graphs, letters, works of art, music, etc.
- Effectively use analytical skills of evaluation, cause and effect, compare and contrast
- Work effectively with others to produce presentations, review sheets, artwork, and solve problems

Topics of Study

The Constitution

World War I

Roaring Twenties

The Great Depression

World War II

The 1950's

Civil Rights

The Vietnam War

The 1970's – 1990's

The 9/11 Commission

Grading Policy

Students are evaluated in three differently weighted categories:

Assessments

50% of your grade is based on tests, quizzes, papers and projects.

Assignments

40% of your grade is based on daily work and assignments. Daily work consists of activities which are necessary for exploration into our subject as well as a common group understanding.

Participation

10% of your grade is based on **attendance, promptness, effort, and on task behavior.**

Show up on time, ready to learn and give your best effort every day. In addition, **discussion is a very important component** of this class and thus it is necessary for students to attend and engage both the instructor and other students.

Grading Scale

90% – 100% = A

80% – 89% = B

70% – 79% = C

60% – 69% = D

Below 60% = Bad News

EFFORT MATTERS



HABITS OF SUCCESS

- PRACTICE HABITS THAT WILL HELP YOU BE SUCCESSFUL!
- LISTEN – PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY ATTEND
 - ACTIVELY PARAPHRASE, THINK AND RETHINK
 - COMMUNICATE AND QUESTION
- ORGANIZE – MANAGE TIME
- BE INDUSTRIUS – WORK HARD, BE THOROUGH
- FOCUS ON ONE THING AT A TIME BUT DON'T LOSE TRACK OF THE BIG PICTURE

Classroom Policies

Discipline – Students are expected to follow school rules as outlined in the Student Handbook. Staff and students will be treated with respect. I hope to handle potential conflict in a positive, one-to-one manner with students. It is my intention to build positive relationships where problems are solved in a positive manner.

Hall Passes – you get three per quarter

Cell Phones

You should not have your phone out in class unless I ask you to use it for an academic purpose.

Therefore, cell phones need to be turned off and put away (as opposed to on your desk, hidden from me by a backpack or purse, or hidden in your lap). Use of your cell phone during class will result in loss of participation points.

Tardy

Every time you are tardy, points are removed from your participation grade.

Many things change
throughout the year!

West Linn student at the beginning of the year doing outdoor activities.



West Linn student when told how much we will cover this year



West Linn students after the first day of school



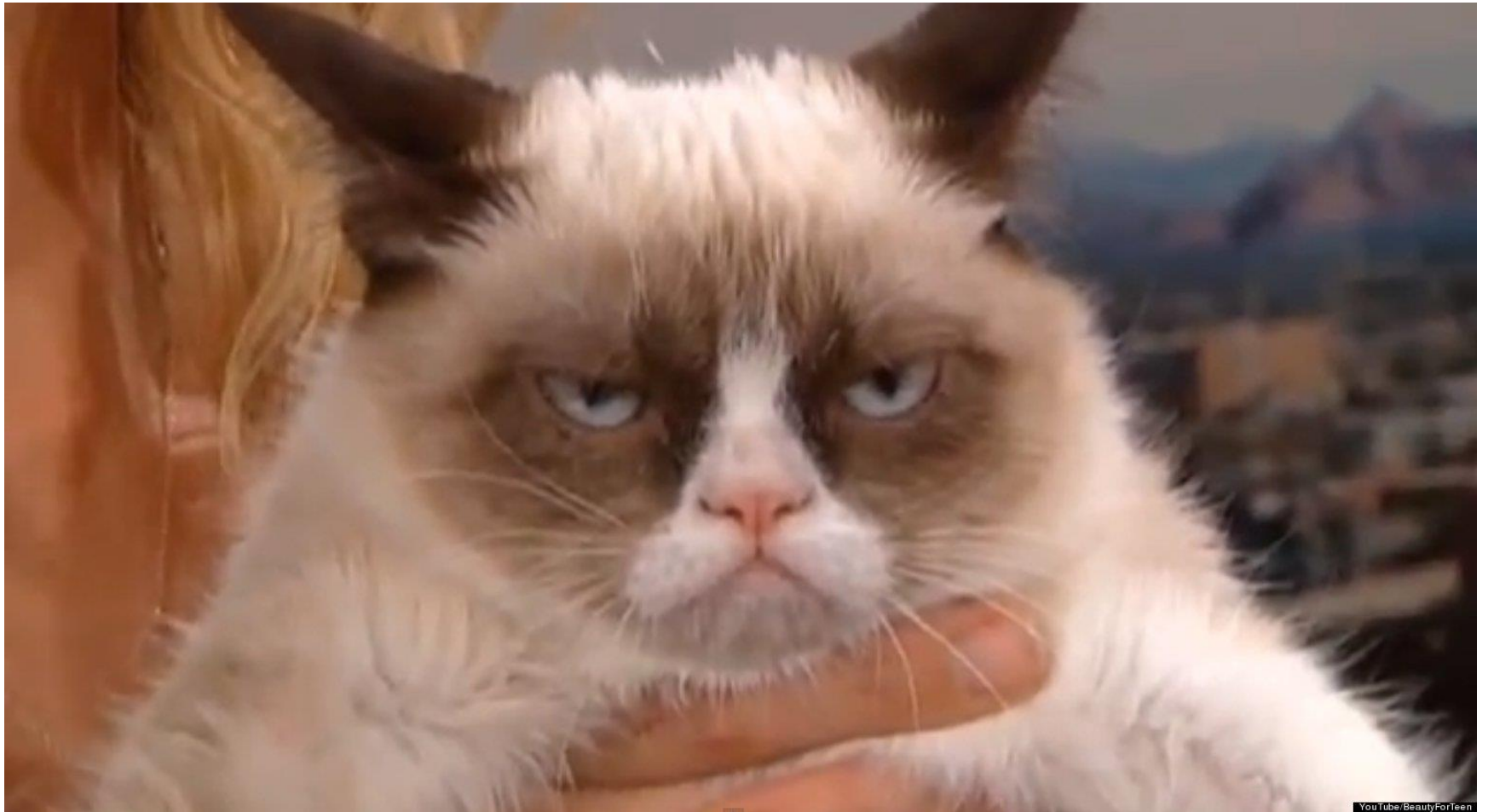
West Linn student at the end of the year doing outdoor activities.



West Linn student at the end of the year in class



West Linn student during finals week



West Linn student after finals



West Linn student relaxing when school is out

