California State University, Northridge
Summer Academic Enrichment Program

History’s Mysteries

Course Overview:
Experience “living history” through creative and exciting ways! Review mock forensic files of a historical event in order to gather, analyze, and interpret the evidence as detectives to solve a mystery. Part literature, part history, and with a bit of drama, this class will allow students to experience both World and United States History through dynamic character role play, online research, and analysis of primary documents in order solve a “mystery” from that era. Students will engage in several happenings that have shaped our world and country. Historical background, geography, and biographies will be used as a springboard for each historical period or event studied.

Course Description:
Students will think like criminalists while reviewing mock forensic files of a historical event as an introduction to an event. Students will then gather, analyze, and interpret the evidence as detectives. Students will engage in tasks such as examining physical objects and photographs, analyzing documents, and reading maps and charts. Students will create a hypothesis to explain the analyzed evidence and participate in simulations related to the event. Students will complete the discovery process by reporting on the specific events and learning about the historical facts as outlined in history texts. Lessons of study will be applicable to both World and United States History.

Course Goals and Objectives

1. Goal: To spark interest and excitement in students for further study of historical events.
   Objective: Discover mysteries in history.
   Objective: Identify a means to solve the mystery.
   Objective: Examine the truth behind the mystery.

2. Goal: To utilize a variety of higher-order thinking skills.
   Objective: Analyze historical evidence.
   Objective: Synthesize evidence to make predictions.
   Objective: Evaluate facts for accuracy.

3. Goal: To develop historians who think like detectives.
   Objective: Create a hypothesis to explain the mystery.
   Objective: Use evidence to lead to predictions.
   Objective: Apply the outcome to future events.
**Course Materials:**
The student needs the following:
   a. Pencil, pens (blue or black), colored pencils, and a highlighter.
   b. One subject spiral notebook with perforated paper for easy tear off
      (Multiple subject notebook with a folder pocket recommended if student is
      enrolled in different courses).

**Course Grading**
Most homework will consist of completing classwork and working on the final project. The frequency and duration of homework will depend on each student’s focus and participation in class. It is realistic to assume that homework should not exceed 30 minutes a night.

Student work will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
- Quality of written work.
- Quality of investigation.
- Contributions to the class environment.

Graded assignments will include:
- Journal notebooks, including warm-up, prediction and reflection.
- Geography assignments.
- Investigative reports.
- Quizzes over material.
- Final project and presentation (see below).

A letter grade will be assigned upon the completion of the course.

**Final Project:**
During the final days of the course, the student will be asked to identify and design a mystery in history. This assignment will allow the student to select a topic of personal interest, develop evidence, design an investigation and present their investigation to the class. Each student is asked to keep this assignment in mind as s/he works through the course. Some class time will be provided for this project, but the student will also have to complete some of the work at home. The use of technology is encouraged. Detailed information will be provided later in the course.
Academic Integrity

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism: “1. the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work.”

Access to technology makes it easier to copy the work of others. Students will learn what constitutes plagiarism and how to steer clear of it. As a rule, if there are three words in a row that someone else can claim, cite it. Plagiarism is stealing and cheating and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is against the law.

The first time a student is caught plagiarizing, there will be a teacher/student conference, a phone call home, no credit given for the assignment, and notification given to the SAEP office.

Copying from a fellow classmate is also unacceptable on homework assignments and individual assessments. The consequences are the same as above.

Teacherease.com:

Parents and students can access grades and attendance through a web-based grade program at teacherease.com. By the end of the first week, parents will be emailed the password to access the program. If you do not receive your password via email, please contact the office staff at saep@csun.edu and request the password to be re-sent. It is beneficial for you to refer often to the website to check your child's progress and attendance in class. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me.

Classroom Behavior:

The student is expected to demonstrate mature, polite behavior and extend courtesy to everyone at all times:

1. Actively participate, and respectful verbal and nonverbal interaction with all opinions must be shown at all times.
2. Since differing views will be expressed, the teacher and the student(s) will mutually maintain a safe environment for courteous dialogue.
3. Respect is to be shown for all CSUN property.
4. No food or beverages will be permitted in the classroom. Snacks must be eaten outside between the designated breaks.
5. Warnings for behavior / discipline problems will be given once. Any further problems will result in a phone call to the parent(s) or guardian(s) and possible dismissal from the program.
SAEP Electronics Policy

Cell phones, music players and headphones are not permitted to be used during class hours.
   a. Please put your cell phone on silent (NOT vibrate).
   b. No texting is allowed during class.

You will be given one verbal warning if the above is not followed. Should a second warning be necessary, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held by the teacher until after class. If a third time occurs, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held in the SAEP office and MUST BE PICKED UP BY A PARENT.
After reading through the syllabus, please sign and date and have your student return it to class. The signature constitutes your commitment to the class as we partner to make the next five weeks a life-long educational experience for your student.

**Student/ Parent Agreement:**
Please bring this signed and dated *History’s Mysteries* syllabus agreement to class tomorrow.

If you do not understand any portion of this syllabus, or if you have any questions regarding this class, please do not hesitate to email the teacher.

We have read and understand the contents of this syllabus.

Student name ______________________________________________________

Student signature _________________________________________________

Date__________________

Parent/Guardian name ______________________________________________

Parent/Guardian signature __________________________________________

Date__________________

Phone _____________________________________________________________

E-mail _____________________________________________________________