**Course Policies and Expectations**

Jordan Boyd, FA17 Modern World History

*www.boyd517.weebly.com*

**Procedures:**

**1. You will bring writing utensils, a folder or notebook with all class notes and assignments, your charged MacBook, and other pertinent materials each day.** You’ll begin class by finding your seat and preparing for the One Minute of Mindfulness.

**2. Late work receives 20% off per class period of lateness.** Talk to me before an assignment is due if you need an extension or have any questions.  I will work with you individually to ensure you meet success, but I can’t help you if I don’t know you need help. Extenuating circumstances will be met on a case-by-case basis.

**3. I dismiss the class, not the bell.** Students are to remain seated until I dismiss class. There is no waiting by the door in Boyd’s classes.

**4. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to first check the web site (www.boyd517.weebly.com) for what we did, and then come see me to receive make-up work if necessary.**If I tell you to come back after class or after school, make sure you do so.

**Rules:**
**1. You will not use your cell phone\* or personal music device during class (from bell to bell).** If I see you use your cell phone or other device while inside my classroom, then your device goes into my Sparkly Bag of Shame until the end of class, and I reserve the right to criticize your taste in Fifth Harmony, 1D, Nickelback, or whatever else it is you kids listen to these days.  *\*There may be cell phone exceptions during a few lessons, but those will be announced to everyone and take place at my discretion.*

**2. If you have to sharpen your pencil or ask to use the restroom during class, please do so when I am not giving instruction.**  Doing it while I’m speaking is not polite.

**3. Plagiarism is not tolerated.** I stand by the FSHS Handbook statement on Academic Dishonesty (pg. 39). You are responsible for knowing and adhering to this policy. See me for additional clarification, or if you’re not sure what constitutes plagiarism.

**4. Detentions of 15 or 30 minutes will be assigned if necessary for tardies, behavior problems, or other infractions, according to building policy.** Detentions will be served in Boyd’s room and will most likely consist of cleaning.

**5. Last but not least, I expect each of my students to be respectful, hardworking, and responsible.** This means being quiet while I am speaking, treating each other with kindness, and giving this class your full attention and effort during the hour.  It means that you will follow the student handbook guidelines on attendance, tardies, and behavior expectations. It also means that you are ultimately in charge of your learning.  I cannot do your thinking for you.  Learning is an active process, and I expect your complete engagement!

**About this course:**

* I will maintain a web site with our class syllabus/schedule, assignments, an­­d resources. Check it out at www.boyd517.weebly.com. See our class site for content and student benchmark information.
* Students are expected to have some form of organization for this class, be it a 1” binder, an AVID binder, or even just a spiral and folder. See me if you don’t have or can’t afford a binder or the required spiral notebook. (I have connections. I got your back.)
* Students can expect around two tests per quarter. Other assignments will be activity and project based.
* Students can expect to write frequently. The ability to write—really, to organize thoughts, effectively support arguments with evidence, and draw and apply meaningful conclusions—is one of the most important skills that your future instructors and employers want you to have.
* Students should not expect me to lecture frequently. Straight-up lecturing is one of the worst ways to transmit knowledge. Students will be discovering and building knowledge and skills for themselves; my place is that of a facilitator for knowledge, not a fountain.
* This class will be hard. It will also be worth every minute of your time.
* I can’t promise I’ll never bring cookies.

**Schedule for Fall 2017 Semester (subject to change):**

* Review of Middle Ages
* Renaissance and Reformation
* Exploration and Expansion
* Changes in Europe
* Revolution and Reform
* Industrial Revolution

**My schedule:**

By 7:50 – Room 517 (my home base)

1st—Modern World History

2nd—APUSH

3rd—Modern World History

4th—Plan in 507

5th—APUSH

6th—AVID in Room 217

7th—Modern World History

Until 3:50 – Room 517

*August 17, 2017*

Dear parents of Modern World History students,

 My name is Jordan Boyd, and I will be your student’s Modern World History teacher for Fall 2017. I would like to introduce myself and explain my approach to teaching and learning.

 I am the oldest of five sisters, so I grew used to being a leader early in life. I am also a first-generation college graduate. During the summer I volunteer with Camp Quest Kansas City as Director of the Leadership Track. Outside of school and work, I enjoy reading, baking, working out, talking about history to anyone who will listen, and hanging out with friends and family.

I am a native Kansan, but I spent a few years in Arizona when I was growing up. I graduated from Seaman High School in Topeka in May 2008. I attended the University of Kansas as a Watkins-Berger Scholar, and I graduated with a double major in history and anthropology in May 2012. I obtained my license in secondary history education from Washburn University in Topeka in May 2014. While at Washburn I was awarded the Outstanding Secondary Student Teacher award, and I also received a Recognition of Excellence Award for the Social Studies Praxis content exam. During my second year at Free State, I was a State-level recipient of the Kansas Horizon Award Program for new educators. I will begin my Masters in Humanities with an emphasis in American History this fall. I am looking forward to my fourth year as a Firebird!

Based on feedback from previous semesters, I will incorporate more hands-on or group-based activities this year. Regarding classroom management, I maintain authority by fairly and consistently applying classroom procedures, rules, and standards. I enjoy sharing and forming relationships with students on a human level. I also take care to demonstrate respect and compassion for all students. Through these actions, I keep students’ well-being and learning as my number one priority, and this creates harmony within the classroom.

On an average day, students can expect to enter the classroom and experience One Minute of Mindfulness, to promote calmness and focus. Then, I will introduce the day’s lesson, either an in-class activity or a content-based lecture. At the end of the period, the class will regroup. We will review the day’s work and preview the next lesson. Your student will individually be held to high and appropriate academic standards throughout this process.

Ultimately, I make my students do history as much as possible. Students learn how to work individually and in groups, experience the task of a historian in a supportive and positive environment, and practice using content knowledge as well as skills such as critical thinking, document analysis, synthesis and evaluation of ideas, inquisitiveness, and creativity. I also hope they truly appreciate this subject in all its wisdom and richness, so they can be intentional in their actions as citizens and maximize their own contributions to our history.

 In addition to Modern World History, I teach APUSH and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination). I am also a member of the staff Equity Team and co-sponsor of the Free State Gender and Sexuality Alliance.

You and your student may contact me at jboyd@usd497.org, view my web site at www.boyd517.weebly.com, or you may see me before or after school if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you, and I am looking forward to a productive and fun semester with your student!

Sincerely,

Jordan Boyd

**Modern World History Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Hour: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Quiz over policies and expectations (detach this page to hand in—due August 22)**

1. When may you use your phone in class?

2. What do you do at the beginning of each class period?

3. What do you do if you miss class? (AND PLEASE HANDWRITE THE WEB SITE ADDRESS)

4. What will you do if, two days before an assignment is due, you realize there is no way you can complete it on time unless you forgo sleeping and eating?

5. Who is ultimately in charge of your learning in this class?

**I, as parent/guardian, certify that I have read this syllabus and will support my student as they complete these steps toward academic success.**

 **Parent/Guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**