"Art of War" Syllabus

North Pointe Prep----Academic Year 2018/2019

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE is to explore human conflict, from the earliest evidence of Neolithic mass violence, through the Greco-Persian wars, up to the Atomic Age and the Cold War.
Special attention will be placed on two pivotal American conflicts, the Civil War and the Vietnam War, as exemplars of many of the tenets of the Chinese tactician Sun Tzu. We will also focus on the social and political and economic costs of warfare, and how these costs affect the health and wellbeing of the American republic and its place in the modern world. The semester will end with an examination of asymmetric warfare, terrorism, and cyber-warfare.

MATERIALS

- You need a binder/notebook/folder to keep notes, handouts, readings, etc..
- You need pens and pencils. Please make certain that you don't have to keep borrowing them from other people.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS

On a daily basis, I expect you to…

- Be on time.
- Respect yourself and others.
- Be prepared.
- Do your best work.
- Maintain an environment for learning.
- Keep a positive attitude.
- Take responsibility.
- Dress appropriately.
- Use your time wisely.

Students are expected to be in class every day. Please refer to the Student Handbook concerning the school's attendance policies. Unexcused absences and absences due to out-of-school suspension will receive scores of zero on any assignments or assessments due on that day. In-school suspensions will allow for teacher discretion with regard to acceptance of coursework and ability to make up quizzes and tests.
In the event of excused absences, it is the student's responsibility to acquire missing materials and assignments from the instructor. The missing work must be made up in a timely fashion. Excessive absences can result in loss of credit for the course. (Please refer to your Student Handbook regarding the details of this policy.)

Tardiness is not acceptable. Tardiness disrupts your academic performance and the academic performance of your classmates. The first offense will result in a warning. Second and subsequent offenses may result in referral for in-school suspension. Habitual tardiness will result in administrative action, including suspension and/or loss of credit for the course. Do not be tardy.

Leaving the classroom is permitted only for use of the restroom or to respond to calls from the 4A Center or the front office. Leaving for the restroom requires teacher notification, traveling with the restroom pass, leaving your phone on the instructor's desk, and signing out in the student logbook.

You are expected to pay attention in class. This means paying attention during lessons and lectures, paying attention to your fellow classmates when they are speaking, paying attention to whatever reading or

research you are doing in class, and paying attention to your own learning. Do not become a distraction to yourself and others. Make certain you are able to keep your notes and assignments current by paying careful attention to what's going on in class.

Students are expected to have their cell phones turned off or silenced during class time. Texting/gaming/Googling during class is unacceptable. There will be times when I will have you use your phones/devices for classwork, but when that is not the case KEEP YOUR PHONES PUT AWAY. If I see your phone being used outside of teacher-sanctioned research times, I will remind you of the policy. If you choose not to comply with my request, you will be referred to the 4A on account of your insubordination.

Academic discussions will be conducted in a respectful manner. When participating in classroom discussions, I expect you to be patient and respectful, and to speak to one another using a measured tone of voice. Even if the conversation is animated, that doesn't mean that we are supposed to be talking all over one another. Nobody is to be shut out of the conversation, and all are encouraged to actively participate to the best of their abilities. Rudeness and personal attacks will not be tolerated. This kind of behavior may incur a loss of credit for the day, and possibly a referral for administrative involvement. **Pull one another up. Don't cut one another down.**

Tutoring is mandatory if you are earning a D or an F. Social Studies tutoring occurs from 2:35 to 3:30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. You will need to participate in tutoring until your grade is brought up to a C. Failure to report to or refusal to effectively participate in tutoring will be considered insubordination and subject to administrative action.

Students who fail a semester core course are required to attend Academic Friday School from 12:15 pm---3:30 pm the entire following semester to make up the credit. Students who fail to attend Academic Friday School are subject to disciplinary action.

Once enrolled, North Pointe does not accept course credit from other high school or online institutions. The only remedy for making up a failing course credit is North Pointe credit recovery. All credit recovery must be approved by administration.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Parents may contact me using the contact information listed at the beginning of this syllabus. I am not available for face-to-face meetings. Email is the best mode of contact. Behavior and academic issues will warrant parent contact. Administration will intervene if issues remain unresolved.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT GRADING POLICY

Grading Philosophy: Grading in this course will reflect a student's achievement relative to the assigned coursework (i.e.: tests, quizzes, homework, class work, participation, group projects, etc.).

Course Grading: Each student will receive a letter grade upon completion of this course. This grade will correlate with the effort and achievement of individual students on class assessments and assignments. All assessments and assignments will be recorded in the online grading resource as "Total Points". All points, regardless of category (i.e.: tests/quizzes, classwork, homework), will be weighted equally for the calculation of the course grade.

Semester Grades: Per North Pointe policy, semester grades will be weighted as follows: *50% (Quarter 1/3) + 50% (Quarter 2/4) = Final Grade*

Grade Breakdown: The grade percentages that correlate with the actual letter grade are listed below.

Non-AP; Electives

Percentage	Letter Grade
90-100+%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
below 60%	F

Late work will not be accepted. Late work equals a grade of 0% for the assignment. Students are to effectively manage their time in order to complete their assignments. This is a real life, college- and work-related skill that you need to develop now. If a student develops the habit of not turning in work on time, communication with both the student and his/her parent/guardian will occur to resolve the issue. The clear exception here is if a student has an excused absence for illness, school-sanctioned function, etc… As per the Student Handbook, students are granted two days upon their return to make up class work, and must complete missed tests and quizzes immediately upon their return.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. *Dictionary.com* defines plagiarism as "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." You are expected to properly cite any information used in formal assignments. While many instances of plagiarism may be accidental, it is still not acceptable. If a student engages in plagiarism, there will be a hierarchy of consequences. The first occurrence will result in a grade of 0 on whatever assignment, test, or project that contains the plagiarism. Further occurrences will result in administrative discipline including, but not limited to, in school suspension, out of school suspension, failure of the course, and expulsion. Please carefully prepare your work so you do not need to suffer the consequences of plagiarizing someone else's efforts.

Cheating will not be tolerated. Respect yourself enough to do your own work. Respect your classmates enough not to steal from them. Cheating on any exam, quiz, or assignment in this class will result in a grade of 0. No exceptions, no excuses (even if the person you cheated off of "let" you). Repeat offenders will be subject to administrative discipline including, but not limited to, in school suspension, out of school suspension, failure of the course, and expulsion.
Extra credit will be available at the discretion of your instructor. I don't do a lot of extra credit, but students are welcome to propose extra credit ideas, bearing in mind that not every proposal will be accepted.

Please note, your instructor reserves for himself the right to change the policies contained in this syllabus for the proper facilitation of this course.

PRELIMINARY COURSE OUTLINE
Each general topic, with its readings and discussions and notes, etc…, will be treated as an individual "unit." There will be unit quizzes and semester exams. This is a single semester course.

January

- *Definition of "warfare" How long have people been waging war?*
- *Why do we go to war? Is warfare/violence inherent to human nature?*
- *Examination of the tenets of the Chinese general Sun Tzu*
- *Persian Wars and Peloponnesian War Examination of Thucydides*

February

- *Candid exploration of the similarities/differences between the American Revolution and the Vietnam War*
- *How Sun Tzu's ideas apply to modern warfare, using America's involvement in Vietnam as a prime example of many of these ideas*
- *How can we apply Sun Tzu's teachings to our current involvement in the Middle East?*

March

- *Examination of the leadership styles of some of history's most successful commanders---Robert E. Lee, Alexander the Great, Ernst Rommel, Douglas MacArthur, Ho Chi Minh, etc…*
- *Examination of important battles/campaigns in world history---Isandlwana, Gettysburg, Stalingrad, Waterloo, Yorktown, Actium, Thermopylae, etc...*

April

- *Wartime propaganda*
- *The Cold War*
- *Redefinition of warfare in the Atomic Age*

May

- *Asymmetrical warfare, terrorism, and cyber-warfare*

Documentaries that we will be screening (mostly in excerpts, especially the Ken Burns works, which are monumental in scope and size):
The Vietnam War (Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, 2017)
The Civil War (also Ken Burns, 1990)
The Fog of War (Errol Morris, 2003)
Why We Fight (Frank Capra, 1942)
Why We Fight (Eugene Jarecki, 2005)