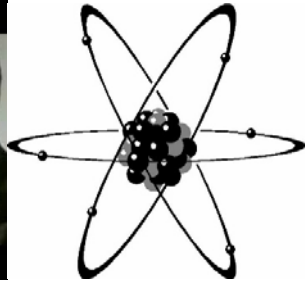


# A Level AICE American History



Dear AICE A Level American History Parent,

To better communicate with my students and their parents I am asking you to read and respond to this document. I will e-mail updates every two weeks to parents and students. If you do not wish to receive these updates respond as directed at the end of this email.

**My first request is for you to email me that you give permission for your son/daughter to watch videos in the class room.** The video permission form included at the end of this email is required by the district and is to inform you of the films I will **possibly** use this semester. There are instructions on e-mailing your permission along with **your e-mail** address later in this letter **or you can sign and print it and have your son/daughter return it to me.** There will be a class discussion on each of the films. These films and the discussion that will follow are designed to generate ideas for their essays. The course is designed to provoke new ideas and possible answers to questions that the course work poses. Video presentations are a powerful format to engage students. If you would like to preview the videos before giving your permission, you should still complete the permission form indicating that you do not give your permission and then amend your permission form after reviewing the films if you so choose. You can then e-mail the amended, signed permission form to me. **I must have a signed permission form before a student can view the videos.** I have books the student can read if they wish to read instead of watching the videos. Some students opt for that and it is fine with me. I will write a pass to the media center and they do not have to be in the class room or be noticed that they are doing another assignment. I have listed all the videos I plan to show in this class, time permitting. The administration is aware of my showing these films and I have submitted educational support materials to tie them to the state and county standards. I have used some of these films for more than ten years and they will be of great value in teaching American History. I enjoy watching them with my students and I have seen many of them over fifty times. I feel this visual component adds to the power of learning. I hope this gives you some insight into how these videos are utilized. Thank you for your interest and I hope this answers your questions about the process for allowing students to view selected videos.

Saving Private Ryan

Holocaust

Truman	Hitler and Stalin
Kennedy	Irena Sendler, In the Names of their Mothers
Nixon/ Frost	Wallenberg, A Hero's Story
The Missiles of October	Hitler, The Rise of Evil
Good Night and Good Luck	The Nazis, A Warning from History
Radio Bikini	
Mississippi Burning	
Eyes on the Prize	
Malcolm X	

**My second request is to look at my website** if you wish to know what we are doing this semester. The site is [www.shshistory.com](http://www.shshistory.com) or you can Google it with my name, Dr. Sandra Crihfield. All assignments for the semester are located on the AICE American History tab (then click on A Level). A calendar for the entire semester is also under the calendar tab. Also on the web site are additional review materials, citation help, my biography, my contact information, video questions, supplemental reading assignments, links to important sources, and citation machine. So, if a student is absent or you are making plans to be out of town you can check the calendar to know what we are doing in class.

I am an experienced teacher and have taught high school history, geography, economics, and government. I have also taught AP American History and AP American Government. I have been teaching AICE for seven years, have attended twelve seminars on their teaching methods, and visited Cambridge University. I have taught Pre-AICE Global Perspectives, AICE Global Perspectives AS and A Levels, AICE American History AS and A Levels, and AICE International History. I taught American History, Political Science, Western Civilizations, and International Relations at State College of Florida. I have taught student teachers at West Virginia University, and Humanities for the graduate school at Marshall University. Read my web site under *meet the teacher* to find more about where and what I have taught.

The classroom has thirty computers in it, due to a grant I wrote seven years ago, to provide my students with computer access to Word 2016 and the Internet. There are rules they must follow to be able to use the computers, but they do not have to use them every day if they do not wish to word process their work. The students may e-mail their assignments to me from home via the Blackboard Network.

The syllabus is on my website, and on Blackboard for students and parents to refer to throughout the year. I will not waste the paper to print a syllabus for each student, but they are welcome to print one in the media center or at home. The course is designed to introduce the AICE student to writing, source evaluation, and critical thinking. The course is developed around two papers required by Cambridge. The papers and course requirements are in the syllabus. The course will build on the History course skills and introduce new ones. All of them are applicable to their high school career and the world they will soon be moving into.

There are after school seminars to review material and assist in writing skills but most

valuable would be one-on-one assistance on their essay and presentations skills for the successful completion of the AICE credit. These seminars are scheduled throughout the year. They are one hour long and are highly recommended. These seminars will give students that extra edge to be successful in an AICE course.

**My third request is for BOTH your e-mail AND your son/daughter's e-mail addresses.**

Please provide your e-mail address if you wish to get my e-mails. They are blind e-mails so no one else will see your address. Please take a minute right now and e-mail me at [sandy.crihfield@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:sandy.crihfield@sarasotacountyschools.net). In the title line of the email please place the following information: 1) the name of the person who has each account so I will know whose e-mail it is, 2) your son/daughter's name, and 3) write A Level AICE American History. I will set up distribution lists and start emailing when I get them organized. Thank you for the information.

I look forward to a great year with your son/daughter. I hope this information is helpful.

**To recap:** 1) Please remember to sign and return the video permission form **OR** send an email to me at [sandy.crihfield@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:sandy.crihfield@sarasotacountyschools.net) putting your son/daughter's full name and the name of the course (A Level AICE American History) in the subject line and in the body of the e-mail type the words "video yes" if you are giving permission to see these films or "video no" if you are denying permission. 2) Look at the calendar and tabs on the website so you will be familiar with the site, and 3) Send two emails, if both you and your child, wish to receive emails about the class throughout the year. Send it to [sandy.crihfield@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:sandy.crihfield@sarasotacountyschools.net) and put your name in the subject line, your son/daughters' name, A Level AICE American History, and your email address.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Sandra B. Crihfield