

**Welcome, Introductions &  
the Nuts & Bolts**

# AGENDA

- ★ Course overview
- ★ Class technology
- ★ Class routines & expectations

# Course Overview - Welcome to Pop Culture!

America is in many ways defined by our popular culture and has been for the past century. Pop culture is all around us, influencing how we think, how we spend our time, and how we live our lives. Our popular culture not only influences us; economically, popular culture has also become one of America's leading exports.

In spite of its influence, popular culture is often seen as fluffy or trivial. Academic interest in popular culture is still relatively new. Despite criticism, the field of popular culture is growing and as we will see this year, it *IS* worth studying.





Over the course of the year, we'll study topics like:

- \* Celebrities & icons
- \* Technology & social media
- \* Music & dance
- \* Film
- \* TV
- \* Advertising
- \* Sports
- \* Art
- \* Fashion

All of these topics can't be divorced from the history and events happening in that time so you will need to draw on your knowledge of the various decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (no worries though, we'll review the relevant details at the start of each unit!)

In a world that is increasingly saturated with media, you need to be smart consumers and we're going to make space for those interests in class and hopefully cultivate some new ones along the way!

# My goals for you

- ★ To build on your writing, presentation & organizational skills.
- ★ To give you a space to study entertainment at the same time as you're learning something about American history/society.

Specifically, the 2 questions we'll be asking/answering this year are:

- How do historical events influence American popular culture?
- How does pop culture influence Americans' attitudes, behavior & society as a whole?



# Class Technology - Google Classroom



- ★ Block 2's class code to join is xtoejly
- ★ Block 3's class code to join is b2hui3i (b2hui3i)
- ★ Block 5's class code to join is hoiahuy
- ★ Block 7's class code to join is 5k+5nng

# Google Classroom Set-up

Shen - Pop Culture  
Block 5

Announce something to your class...

Start a conversation with your class

**Stream:  
announcements**

Stream    Classwork    People

The screenshot shows the top of a Google Classroom page. At the top is a header with the class name 'Shen - Pop Culture' and 'Block 5'. Below that is a text box for announcements and a 'Start a conversation with your class' button. A blue box highlights the 'Stream' section, and a green box highlights the 'Classwork' section in the bottom navigation bar.

**Classwork**  
(organized by unit)  
weekly calendar,  
materials & work

U1: Intro to PC

- PC syllabus #1 - Aug. 31-Sept. 16  
Posted Aug 8, 1:24 PM
- PC - course intro  
Posted Aug 8, 10:20 AM
- Intro to PC - materials  
Posted Aug 8, 10:18 AM
- HW: Welcome to PC  
Posted Aug 8, 10:21 AM
- HW: PC collage  
Posted Aug 8, 10:25 AM

U2: Celebrities & Icons

- Celebs & Icons - materials  
Posted Aug 8, 10:30 AM
- PROJECT: Cultural heroes & icons  
Posted Aug 8, 10:34 AM

U3: Soc. media & technol...

The screenshot shows the 'Classwork' section of a Google Classroom page. It is organized by unit. Unit 1 is 'Intro to PC' and contains five items: a syllabus, a course intro, materials, and two homework assignments. Unit 2 is 'Celebrities & Icons' and contains two items: materials and a project. Unit 3 is 'Soc. media & technol...'. Each item has a document icon and a post date.

# Class Technology - Aspen

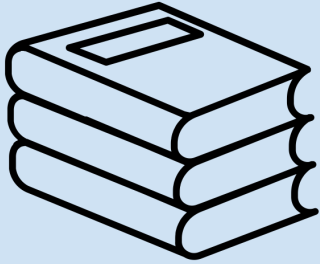
★ Aspen is open so you can keep track of your grade, see what's coming up, what work is done & what may be missing.

★ Let me know if Aspen that doesn't line up with what you think you've handed in.

<b>Teacher:</b> Melisa Shen		<b>Class:</b> HistAmerPopCult20th [REDACTED]		
M = missing, counted as zero S = submitted, not yet graded U = upcoming assignment EXC = excused from assignment EXT = extension granted				
<u>Assignments</u>				
Date Due	Category	Name	Pts Earned	Max Pts
9/4/2019	HW	Pop Culture article	10	10
9/6/2019	Project	Pop Culture collage	10	10
9/13/2019	Project	Celebrity Icon Project	20	20
9/18/2019	HW	"YouTubers Are Not Your Friend" reading & ques	10	10
9/20/2019	HW	20 random things	10	10
9/24/2019	Test	Intro/celebrity test	70	70
9/27/2019	Project	Sports mini debate	10	10
10/8/2019	HW	"Why is sports history American history?" & ques	10	10
10/11/2019	Project	Sports icon reflection	10	10
10/11/2019	Project	Sports icons project	40	40
10/23/2019	Project	Women in sports debate - participation	20	20
10/23/2019	Project	Women in sports debate - notes	10	10
10/25/2019	Paper	Women in sport - paragraph outline	10	10



# Readings/Texts



There is no textbook for this class.

There is rarely homework (except in cases where you weren't able to complete an assignment in the class time allotted.)

# Assignments



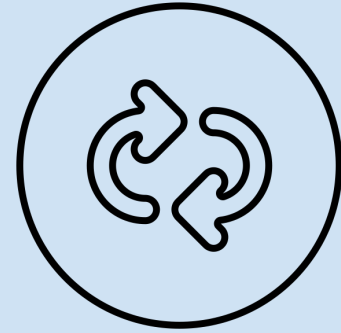
- All work will be turned in through Google Classroom.
- The main assessment tool in this class is projects & papers. (2-3 projects each quarter)
- Before each project or paper there will be time devoted in class to prepare, get feedback & help.

# Writing



- We'll be writing a handful of short papers this year.
- These shorter writing assignments are designed to help you improve your writing skills before we write a more in-depth research paper in quarter 2-3.
  - The research paper will allow you to dig into a topic in American popular culture that interests you (more on that later!)

# Re-dos



The goal is for you to improve and master the skills and if it means it takes a do-over to get there, so be it. Talk to Ms. Nasella after you get your work back and we'll see if it makes sense. (This won't apply on every assignment!)

# Class Participation

- ★ Class is more productive & fun when you participate.
- ★ While day-to-day participation is NOT graded officially, this is the work that weighs into your grade should you be on the cusp at the end of the quarter.



# Classroom Expectations



1. Be respectful of other people's opinions and try your best to be open-minded toward others. MORE TO COME ON THIS...
2. Please try to **be on time** to class. "On time" means in your seat and ready to learn at the start of class (give or take a minute.)
3. If you're absent, check the syllabus / Google Classroom to find out what work you missed & to make plans to make up the work.

# AI Policy



- While there are many useful and helpful practical applications of AI, that line of what is and what isn't ok is blurry. For now, let's err on the side of caution and assume that any use of AI for work production is academic dishonesty.
- The majority of your work will be done in Google Classroom this year. **My expectation is that all work will be completed on the assigned docs so that I can access the editing history.**

# Grading Policy



**You'll be graded on a point system.** At the end of the quarter, your total points are added & divided by the total number of possible points. (Each quarter's points will vary according to the type/number of assignments that are given.)

Here's the rough point value of various types of assignments:

Projects - 10-50 pts

Essays – 50-60 pts

Research paper – 100 pts



# What can you expect from me in terms of routines?



Routines  
Matter

- ★ Every class we'll open with something fun - fluffy questions, random sharing, coloring, a Kahoot, etc. - to help build community & give you a few minutes to ease your brain/body into the room.
- ★ All materials from a unit will be posted on Google Classroom & all assignments will be submitted through Classroom.
- ★ You have a bi-weekly syllabus with an overview for the week (with classwork & any homework) - this syllabus will be posted at the top of each unit in Classroom.



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**Planning blocks: 1, 4 & 6**