

Course Syllabus –US History

2021-2022 School Year

COURSE: US History

This course focuses on history from the point of the reconstruction (after the Civil War) to the present day events in the 21st Century. Topics covered in this course include the Industrial Age, The Great Depression, World War I and II, The Cold War, The Vietnam War, The Civil Rights Movement, and present day current events.

Note: In this class we will be taking a reading / writing approach to history, using primary documents and other authentic resources to help you learn history with a greater depth of knowledge while at the same time connecting with people, places, and times of our not so distant past. You will be required to read and write a bit more than you are used to at times. Please realize that this is meant to help you to understand history at a deeper level than just memorizing facts and dates. **(FYI – our new AIR Tests will be performance based)**

My personal philosophy of teaching:

- ALL students are capable of learning.
- Success in the classroom is both the Teacher's and Student's responsibility.
- Learning is important not only for success in school but also success in life
- Don't teach to the test. Teach the skills necessary to be successful in all areas of your life. (which include test taking)

How to succeed in this class:

1. Bring a positive attitude to class
2. Maintain good attendance
3. Complete class work and turn in assignments on time
4. Ask questions / participate in class – this promotes discussion
5. Prepare for tests

Grading Scale

The following grading scale has been established to determine the student's nine weeks grade on all assignments, tests, projects, final grades, etc.

A = 100-90% B = 89-80% C = 79-70% D = 69-60% F = 59-0%

Determining your grade

1. Tests (75% with Projects) will be given at the end of each unit and will be performance based – documents, charts, and other key resources will be analyzed and used to create thoughtful responses, arguments, or analyses of important historical events, figures, and other historical information.

2. Notes / Handouts These will be distributed at the beginning of each chapter / unit. They will be due on the day of the test for that particular chapter or unit. Notes and handouts may include reading guides, primary sources documents, maps, charts, etc. We will be completing these in class most of the time but anything not completed in class will need to be finished by the day of the test.

3. Other assignments / Projects (75% with tests) given to students are class presentations, group or individual projects, and possible reflection assignments. These assignments vary with the unit being covered.

Class Preparation

Every student is expected to bring all appropriate materials to class. These include but are not limited to: Paper, pen or pencil, and a folder or binder.

Homework/Classwork (25%)

All homework will be collected on the day of the test for each unit. Keep in mind that most assignments will be handed out on the first day of the new chapter so you will have plenty of time to complete all assignments.

Extra Credit

Extra Credit is NOT assigned on an individual basis. Extra Credit, when assigned, will be assigned to the whole class (extra assignments / throw back questions on tests / attendance at review sessions).

Classroom Rules and Regulations

We will follow all school rules but common sense is the main guideline in the class. I will not tolerate disrespect of any kind. I am an understanding teacher. If you are having a problem, please talk with me at an appropriate time during the class period.

When you arrive to class

Please take your seat and prepare yourself for class. When the bell rings, you should be ready to hear what I have to say. I will start every class with my world famous word puzzle riddles.

Classroom Discussion

I will initiate many classroom discussions in which I encourage you to take part. Participation in these discussions will increase in your enjoyment and understanding of our class material. In order to achieve a greater depth of knowledge, it is wisely encouraged to engage in these spirited classroom discussions as they will often apply directly to your lives as American citizens.

Other Classroom Policies

Seating Charts

I may assign seating charts at the beginning of school for attendance purposes but if the class shows that they can handle it, you may select your seats. **If you know sitting next to someone is going to be a problem, don't sit next to them or talk to me about it and we can deal with it promptly.** Also, please don't argue with me if I choose to move you.

If you need to use the restroom:

Raise your hand and ask if you may use the restroom. Sign out on the restroom sign out sheet. Please try to ask during an appropriate time in class. If we are in the middle of something, please wait until there is a pause in the class (unless it is an emergency of course).

Finding assignments when absent:

Come see me at the beginning or end of class for any makeup work. Additionally, you can check our lesson plan board as you arrive, our online classroom, or our Google Classroom.

Cell Phones / I Pods / Other Electronic Devices

We may use electronic devices in class for learning purposes. Feel free to bring a laptop / Ipad if that would help you to take notes, complete assignments, or do research. Please do not use these unless you ask or are indicated to do so. Let's not let your cell phone impede the learning process. Instead, let's use it to help the learning process.

Chapters That We Will Be Covering This Year:

Founding Documents and Review:

We will be spending about a week going over a quick review of the material you covered two years ago as some of this information will be tested on AIR Tests in April.

Chapter 5- Westward Expansion

Chapter 6 – A New Industrial Age

Chapter Objective

To analyze the effects of various scientific discoveries and manufacturing innovations on the nature of work, the American labor movement, and businesses.

Chapter 7 – Immigrants and Urbanization

Chapter Objective

To analyze the economic, social, and political effects of immigration and to understand the immigrant experience.

Chapter 8 – Life at the Turn of the 20th Century

Chapter Objective

To analyze significant turn-of-the-20th-century trends in such areas as technology, education, race relations, and mass culture.

Chapter 9 – The Progressive Era

Chapter Objective

Explain how the progressive movement managed to increase the power of government to regulate business and to protect society from the injustices fostered by big business.

Chapter 10 – American Claims an Empire

Chapter Objective

To understand how individuals and events moved the United States into the role of a world power and to recognize the effects of economic policies on U.S. diplomacy.

Chapter 11 – The First World War

Chapter Objective

To understand the causes of World War I, the reasons the United States entered the war in 1917, and the consequences of the war.

Chapter 12 – Politics of the Roaring Twenties

Chapter Objective

To trace the political and social changes after World War I and throughout the decade of the 1920s.

Chapter 13 – The Roaring Life of the 1920's

Chapter Objective

To understand such issues as Prohibition, the changing role of women, and the influence of the Harlem Renaissance.

Chapter 14 – The Great Depression Begins

Chapter Objective

To understand the causes and consequences of the Great Depression and the futility of Hoover's actions to limit the damage.

Chapter 15 – The New Deal

Chapter Objective

To understand the impetus for FDR's New Deal legislation and the impact of these policies on the American nation.

Chapter 16 – World War Looms

Chapter Objective

To trace the rise of dictators, the beginnings of war, and the American response in the 1930s.

Chapter 17 – The United States in World War II

Chapter Objective

To understand the military campaigns, political decisions, and efforts on the home front that won World War II.

Chapter 18 – Cold War Conflicts

Chapter Objective

To understand the international and domestic tensions resulting from the Cold War.

Chapter 20 – The New Frontier and the Great Society

Chapter Objective

To understand the achievements and challenges of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

Chapter 21 – Civil Rights

Chapter Objective

To understand the African-American struggle for civil rights during the 1950s and 1960s.

Chapter 22 – The Vietnam War Years

Chapter Objective

To understand the military and political events of the Vietnam War in Southeast Asia and its impact on life in the United States.

End of Year Unit – During the last month of school we will be covering several key historical event topics that follow the Vietnam War Years. These topics will span a nearly 50 year period and will be selected based on historical importance.