

IB. HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS (H.O.T.A.) – 2025-2026

IB History of the Americas Syllabus, 2025-2026

Instructor: Mr. Cummings

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Course Website: <https://tcsocialstudies.weebly.com/>

Course Text and Other Reading

Main Text: 2015. *History of the Americas 1880-1981*. UK: Oxford University Press

(Expensive. Please don't feel obligated to buy. I will provide relevant copied excerpts for assignments and readings.)

History of the Americas – The Course:

History of the Americas (HOTA) is year one of the two-year higher-level International Baccalaureate course. This course is a systematic and critical study of the human experience, including social, economic, political, and cultural events through the 19th and 20th centuries.

Providing historical explanations from an international perspective in this history course. Students will be expected to study the histories of a selection of countries and themes within the chosen region. The study of a country's national history will be in the comparative, regional framework of the History of the Americas.

In this course, students are required to:

- Comprehend, analyze, evaluate, and integrate source material critically as historical evidence.
- Explain different approaches to and interpretations of historical events and topics.
- Place events in their historical context.
- Explain the causes and effects of historical continuity and change.
- Present arguments that are clear, coherent, relevant, and well substantiated.
- Present historical explanations from an international perspective.
- Plan, organize, and research an individual historical investigation.
- Demonstrate an in-depth historical understanding of approximately 100 years of history in the region of the Americas.
- To demonstrate historical understanding through the acquisition, selection, and effective use of knowledge.
- To identify and evaluate different approaches to, and interpretations of, historical events and topics.
- To explain the causes and effects of historical continuity and change.

IB Junior Year – HL Options

History of the Americas (Emphasis on #12, #16, and #17) (we choose 3 of the 18 choices)

Topic #12 – The Great Depression and the Americas (1920s to 1940s)

The United States, Canada, and Latin America (Brazil)

Topic #16 – The Cold War and the Americas 1945-1981

The United States, Canada, and Latin America (Guatemala)

Topic #17 – Civil Rights and Social Movements in the Americas Post-1945

The United States, Canada, and Latin America

Course Requirements

Every student will maintain a three-ring binder for this class only. Notebooks will be graded at any time during the grading period.

Contents will include the following, **in this exact order**:

- 1) Syllabus/Course Description (this document)
- 2) Class Notes
 - Your notes from class discussions – you are responsible for *acquiring* and *maintaining* notes
 - Keep your notes organized! This will be integral for test preparation.
- 3) Source Documents (Primary & Secondary Sources)
 - Completion of source reading assignments is your responsibility. Assignments are posted daily on my website so check it frequently to ensure you have everything.
 - Entries for each reading should be dated and labeled with the corresponding title
 - Each entry should be handwritten.
- 4) Maps
- 5) Charts

Absences/Late Work

- **Absences/Missed Work:**

Any work you missed as a result of an absence must be completed in a time frame equal to the number of days you were absent (ex: 2 absences = 2 days to make up). This does not apply to work assigned to you before an absence (see 'Late Work' below). Tests and quizzes are to be completed on the day a student returns. Failure to complete missed work within these time constraints will result in automatic point deductions following school policies for late work. Only work that has been missed due to excused absences can be made up. Work missed due to unexcused absences will receive a score of zero. **Make-up work is your responsibility, and you will not be reminded.** *Always check the website and communicate!*

- **Late Work:** Work that is turned in late will receive a 12-point deduction for each day the assignment is missing.

Tardy Policy

- All students are required to be prepared for class and ready to begin working when the bell rings.
- Tardy policy can be found in the John T. Hoggard student handbook

General Rules

- Be prepared for class with books, paper, pens/pencils, and all other materials before class begins
- Be in your seat and ready to work before the tardy bell rings
- Participation in class activities and assignments is not optional. **Participation is mandatory**
- Respect all people and their property
 - Pay attention to and be respectful of other students when they are speaking.
 - If it does not belong to you, do not touch it.
 - Do not leave trash on the desks or on the floor.
- You are required by the New Hanover County School Board to have a visible Student ID and be in compliance with the school dress code
- Go to the bathroom before class. Follow the 15/15 rule. Hoggard policy requires us not to allow students to leave class during the first and last 15 minutes of class.
- Phones must be turned in before using the bathroom or using a hall pass
- **DO NOT DISRUPT CLASS.** Interrupting class is rude and interferes with others who are trying to learn.
- These are not all of the rules and expectations. I reserve the right to change the rules depending on the class's level of cooperation and maturity. Failure to meet these requirements will result in detentions. Continued failure to meet these requirements will result in a referral to the administrator for your grade level.

IB Mission Statement:

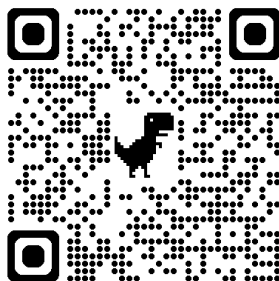
The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Hoggard IB Website

Here you can reference IB Policies and Procedures (Which includes Assessment procedures, Academic Honesty Policy, and Student/Parental Complaint Procedures)



Academic Honesty Statement

“Academic integrity is a principle in education and a choice to act in a responsible way so others can trust us. It means conducting all aspects of your academic life in a responsible and ethical manner. The IB expects students to produce genuine and authentic pieces of work that represent their own abilities. That is, the IB wants to support "content creators", not "content imitators". Students should give credit where credit is due—so be honest and transparent and recognize how previous work is influencing/supporting your own work.”-International Baccalaureate Organization

Please be aware of the expectations linked here from the [IBO](#), [John T. Hoggard High School's Academic Integrity Policy](#), and the [NHCS's Code of Conduct](#).

Cell Phone & Device Policy (Per New NC Law)

In alignment with North Carolina's new state law on student devices, **all wireless communication devices—including cell phones—must be turned off and put away during instructional time.** This includes class lectures, discussions, group work, activities, and assessments. Devices should not be visible on desks or in laps.

Permitted Exceptions

- **Teacher-approved use** for specific instructional purposes.
- **IEP or 504 plan accommodations** that require technology access.
- **Health-related needs** (e.g., monitoring medical devices, communication with parents in emergencies).
- **Emergencies** as directed by staff.

Not Permitted

- Texting, calling, or using apps/social media during class.
- Having earbuds/AirPods in during instruction unless specifically approved.

Consequences

Violations of this policy will result in:

1. **First offense** – Verbal warning.
2. **Second offense** – Device confiscation until the end of class.
3. **Repeated offenses** – Referral in accordance with school discipline policy and parent/guardian contact.

Why This Policy Matters

This policy is designed to:

- Protect focus and attention during class time.
- Support a healthy learning environment, free from digital distraction.
- Ensure fairness by applying the same expectations across all classrooms.

Grading

Summative (Tests, Exams, Projects) = 60%

Formative (Quizzes) = 20%

Practice (Classwork Assignments) = 20%

I have read the attached syllabus and understand the course requirements as stated.

Student Signature:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

(Note: this syllabus is available on my website)