



US History Syllabus

Staff Simon Pollack spollack@bisd303.org Katie Zonoff kzonoff@bisd303.org Office Hours: By appointment and before school.	Class Resources Staff Website (link) - Mr. Pollack Staff Website (link) - Ms. Zonoff TCI History Alive Login Instructions
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Course Information

This course is designed to acquaint students with US history through the study of politics, culture, and economics. Students will explore various perspectives and experiences, evaluate actions of key decision makers, and come to understand the ways in which the past has informed the present. Throughout the year students will examine and address the following guiding questions during each unit of study:

- How has the past informed the present?
- How has America strived for justice throughout our nation's history as evidenced in the struggle for 5 founding ideals (opportunity, democracy, equality, individual rights, and liberty)?
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The purpose of this course is to get students thinking critically so that they become better informed and prepared to participate thoughtfully in their society.

Course Site

Assignments will be posted and submitted via Google Classroom. Students must enroll in our Google Classroom; if parents/guardians would like to receive Guardian Summaries, they can contact any one of their child's teachers to sign up.

Learning Objectives

- Understand cause and effect relationships in American history and culture
- Evaluate multiple interpretations of events
- Effectively consult and analyze primary and secondary pieces
- Write an independent research based essay in the spring
- Expand research skills and develop the ability to evaluate the quality of sources
- Deepen discussion skills in both large and small group settings
- Explain how contemporary issues are informed by events in American history
- Think critically and thoughtfully about America's 5 founding ideals
- Understand how events in American history were experienced from a variety of bottom up and top down perspectives

Learning Resources and Materials

- Students will use the *TCI History Alive! Pursuing American Ideals* text. This textbook is digital and can be accessed online through the TCI student sign-in page. A link to this site is available on Google Classroom under the Class Resources module and on the first page of this document.
- Selected primary and secondary resources

- Please bring the following materials to class every day:
 - Something to write with, like a pen or pencil.
 - A binder or part of a binder to keep notes and handouts organized
 - Lined paper to complete in class assignments that may be turned in
 - **Charged** Chromebook

Course Overview

Unit 1: Establishing an American Republic

Unit 2: Westward Expansion

Unit 3: Civil War and Reconstruction

Unit 4: The American Dream

Unit 5: Civil Rights Movements

Unit 6: Challenges at Home and Abroad

Student Expectations

Attendance and Engagement

- Please treat every person with courtesy and respect. Be thoughtful and sensitive when you listen and respond to each other's discussion, comments, and work.
- Unless they are ill, all students should be prepared for class and participate in all activities. If a student is unable to participate in these activities, they must make alternative arrangements with the teacher ***before the due date*** unless they are ill or experience an emergency.
- In the case of a pre-planned absence for personal or extracurricular reasons, students should contact their teacher ***prior to their absence*** to establish expectations for work completion.
- All students will be expected to have relevant materials and equipment when class begins. If you must print out work on campus, you should do so outside of class time in order to be prepared for the beginning of class.
- Students will be prompt and responsible regarding attendance and assignments. Missing assignments, absenteeism, and tardiness will impact the semester grade due to lost seat time in class and teacher feedback.

Communications and Self-Advocacy

Good communication is essential to building good relationships with other students and with instructors. We promise to reach out to you to learn more about who you are and how you learn, and we hope that you will reach out to us to share your interests, ideas, and concerns. In order to accomplish the "nuts-and-bolts" communication of the class, we maintain informative websites and online grade records, and we reply to emails. However, we highly value face-to-face interactions and believe it is the best way to communicate. If you have an issue or concern that is especially troubling to you, we suggest you make an appointment with us to talk about it in person.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a compelling principle by which we operate all aspects of student and school life. Academic honesty is highly valued at BHS. Students should not cheat or plagiarize, nor should they tolerate such among fellow students. Students do not receive credit for work that is not their own. Cheating is defined as an attempt to earn credit or receive a grade for coursework in a manner other than defined as acceptable by the teacher. Plagiarism is the taking of language, ideas or thoughts from another person or resource without acknowledging

the source. Students who use plagiarized papers or projects or are involved in any other form of cheating will be subject to reduction in grades and/or disciplinary action for a first offense. Because of the serious nature of academic honesty, violations of this code may result in loss of credit for the assignment with a recorded failing grade. It may also entail loss of credit for the course with a recorded failing grade, removal from the course with a failing grade, and/ or additional appropriate disciplinary action. (BISD Student Handbook)

Please Note: As the BISD Student Handbook states, *Students do not receive credit for work that is not their own. The expectation is that the work you submit is neither copied nor completed with a group. Group work (unless specifically assigned as group work) and copied work will receive a zero (0).*

AI Statement

Generative AI is already having transformative effects on education, and poses tricky questions for students and teachers. Recognizing that this is a new and continuously evolving technology, we will have to be flexible as we consider its possibilities and drawbacks. We do want to make this point absolutely clear for our students: **Using Chat GPT or other AI composition software is not permitted when your own original work is called for.**

- If you are unsure or have questions about whether the use of AI is permitted, you must contact your teacher before using it.
- Teachers may choose to interview students about their AI use and/or the original ideas in the work they have submitted if the teacher believes that the student used AI to generate the ideas.
- Students should understand that while generative AI is a powerful tool, it has important limitations. It may generate information that sounds good, but is inaccurate, biased or made up. It is the student's responsibility to cross-reference any information generated by AI with reliable sources.

As a class, we will discuss how, when and why AI resources may be used in this course. This will be an on-going discussion as we navigate through the questions, opportunities, and challenges of applying AI in the classroom. Above all, intellectual growth and learning come from genuine human curiosity leading to authentic questioning, research, writing and speaking. **AI cannot replace this process.**

Policies & Procedures

Attendance Refer to BHS attendance policies: *Attendance may impact grades if unexcused absences are not excused in 48 hours.*

Grading

Bainbridge High School reports grades at the end of each semester; progress reports are available for at the end of Term 1 and 3. Letter grades are calculated using the following grading scale:

A	93-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	78-79%	D+	68-69%
A-	90-92%	B	83-86%	C	73-77%	D	60-67%
		B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	F	0-59%

Gradebook Categories and Weights

Total Points

Assessments

US History includes a variety of assessments for students to demonstrate their knowledge. These include unit exams, quizzes, written assessments, oral discussions and/or presentations, individual and group projects and a comprehensive oral semester exam.

We value differing opinions and ideas in discussion and in writing. Therefore, we will grade assessments on how well you articulate your position and support it with evidence from the texts, not whether it is "right or wrong."

Sensitive Materials

There are times in the course where sensitive materials will be shown to students. One of the goals of this course is to expose students to a variety of realities, perspectives and modes of expression. To the extent possible, students will be notified ahead of time about the content of such materials. These materials may include nudity (indigenous people, famous works of art, war), violence (war, social strife, protests, etc), extreme poverty, and controversial ideas, including profanity, or emotionally challenging subjects (including mental illness and domestic violence). We encourage students to discuss individually with their teacher about what they find concerning; in extreme cases, alternative texts may be assigned.

Submitting Assignments

- Turning in work: most work will be turned in on paper but some assignments will be completed through google classroom.
- Late Work:
 - Late work can be done for full credit and is accepted through the end of the unit for which it is assigned. However, assignments are intended to prepare you for in-class activities and assessments, therefore incomplete assignments may impact your overall grade.
 - We will NOT accept assignments via email or shared with me on Google Drive. All work should be turned in on the applicable Google Classroom assignment by the beginning of class.
 - Assessments given during absences must be made up no later than one week after the student's return from an extended absence. Otherwise, a missed test will be administered the next class period the student attends.

Personal Device Policy and Contacting Your Student

Internet accessible phones, watches and associated technology, such as headphones, are not permitted for use in class unless specifically directed. Phones will be submitted to a caddy at the beginning of class, watches and headphones may be stored with the student. If you need to reach your student immediately, please contact the front office.

Entering and Leaving the Classroom

If you need an unexpected and unavoidable break, sign out of class on the "smart pass" computer:

- Sign out will only be available during certain class times.
- Any phones in the hallway/restrooms will be confiscated.

Note that failure to use the hall pass system, excessively long tardies or classroom absences, or leaving the classroom without permission for reasons other than the stated purpose will result in a "missing partial class" (MPC) attendance designation and possible disciplinary action.