Our American Story:

The Complexities of United States History And Their Reflections In Modern America

Syllabus

Patterdox
Mr. Reusch
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Optional Textbooks:
http://www.ushistory.org/us/
https://www.americanyawp.com/index.html

Course overview:

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the events that shaped the United States. An unbiased view will be presented as well as a deeper look into the *who, what, where, when, and why* of such events. Students will analyze the importance of learning major American events such as the establishment of our nation, the Civil War, the Roaring twenties and subsequent Great Depression, the Second World War, the Civil Rights Movement, etc. and applying the lessons from these events to their own lives. The class will be exposed to first-hand accounts, literature, music, art, etc. as way to gain a better understanding of historical events._Students will be encouraged to speak intelligently and develop compelling, persuasive arguments about topics and events from the 18th and 19th, but primarily the 20th century based on factual as well as evidence-supported opinion. Their proficiency will be measured by the instructor/ facilitator in the form of homework, quizzes, tests, projects, and class work- all customizable to fit the specific needs of the student.

Course objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to guide students in becoming lifelong learners so they can apply the lessons from history to find their own success. History classes

should be used as a guide to learn from past successes and failures so individuals can understand and participate more effectively in their community. We will ensure that students understand and analyze the big picture within each unit so they can apply that knowledge to present and future life situations.

Contact information & office hours:

The best way to reach us is by email. I check it regularly during the workweek until 6:00pm PST. My address is patterdox@gmail.com

I make it a point to be available to my students as much as I can. I will be available at SWAP every week. In addition to these times, I am willing to meet during lunch or any other available time if I am free and the student emails me with a request for a meeting at least 24hrs in advance.

Tips for succeeding in the class:

This class will require a lot of creative thinking and application of historical knowledge. Gathering information from credible sources (textbooks, online libraries, museum websites, etc.) will help you to understand the concepts and events that we will be discussing and learning about. We recommend that every student take an active role in the class, asking questions and participating every time we meet. If a student finds himself or herself struggling, I strongly urge them to be proactive and reach out to us at Patterdox for help.

Classroom Policies/ behavior expectations:

All class meetings will be done remotely. Expectations are that all students enrolled at Patterdox engage with the group meetings in a way that is respectful and not disruptive to the other students. This is a learning environment for all & any intentional disruption of that will result in the removal from that days class so the conversations and lessons can continue.

Course Breakdown:

1. Pre-Columbian Societies, Transatlantic Encounters & Colonial North America (1492--1754)

- Early Civilizations
- Columbian Exchange

2&3. Colonization & Conflict (1492-1775)

- Jamestown and the growth of colonizing the New World
- Increasing tensions- French & Indian war/ English Crown

4. The American Revolutionary Era (1775-1789)

- Revolutionary War

5&6. The Early Republic & Antebellum America/ Slavery

- United States Constitution
- Growth of Political Parties
- Territorial Expansion and Manifest Destiny
- Slavery

7&8. The Civil War

- Election of 1860 & Southern Secession

- Advantages & disadvantages of both sides
- Strategies of war
- Battles, leaders, and outcome

9. Reconstruction

- Political tensions
- New challenges in the south

10&11. The Gilded Age

- Rise of big business
- Political Machines
- Immigration

12-14. Progressivism, Imperialism, and the West

- Class structure & Social Darwinism
- Trust busting & muckraking
- Political & Social reform
- Diplomacy in Around the World
- The Frontier and Native American Wars

15. World War I

- Lead up
- Technology and War Strategy

16-19. The Roaring 1920s

- Booming economy
- Prohibition, Harlem Renaissance, pop culture

20&21. The Great Depression and New Deal

- Causes of the Great Depression
- FDR and the Attempts to Recover America's Economy

22&23. World War II

- American isolationism to total war
- Fighting in Europe and the Pacific
- The war at home and abroad

24-26. The 1950s & Cold War

- Advancements in Technology/ Pop Culture
- Forms of competition
- Satellite wars
- McCarthyism
- JFK: Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis, and Assasination

27 & 28. Civil Rights

- The Civil Rights Movement
- Counterculture

29-31. Vietnam, Counter Culture, & Watergate

- Lead-up to Vietnam & the War
- Counterculture/ Hippie Movement
- Watergate Scandal & Nixon

32. Modern American History

- Various events that shaped the last 50 years