

Woodinville High School
11th Grade U.S. History 2013-2014 Syllabus
Ms. Morita (Room 323) / Email: gmorita@nsd.org / Phone: (425) 408-7442
Website: / Online Text: www.classzone.com / Grades: <https://grades.nsd.org/parents/>

Course Description: This course is designed to help you to acquire the enduring understandings of the key events, individuals, and issues that have contributed to the shaping of the contemporary United States and ourselves as individual members of this society, or simply, how we've become who we've become.

Course Objectives:

- Explain, analyze, and evaluate the political, economic, social, and intellectual characteristics of the U.S.
- Demonstrate an understanding of American history with specific reference to the events, individuals, and issues that have had major influences on public policy and social movements.
- Evaluate and interpret sources of historical information.
- Analyze and compare multiple historical sources to develop empathy for different perspectives.
- Improve reading, writing, research and communication skills.
- Develop a lifelong interest and the skills to participate as an informed citizen in society.

Classroom Policies (Subject to Change)

Attendance: Please attend class as there are invaluable experiences that occur in class that cannot be made-up (discussions, debates, simulations, group work, etc.). If you are absent, you are responsible for identifying what you missed (please check the files, calendar, course website, or a classmate to find out what you are still responsible for).

Tardies: Out of respect for each other and the limited time we share, please be seated and ready to work when the bell rings, otherwise you will be marked tardy. If you are tardy, please use the sign-in sheet.

Make-Up Work: Upon returning from an excused absence, you will have up to one week to make up any missed assignments, tests or presentations, or two (2) school days to make up a quiz or test. Make-up work/tests will only be accepted if absences are excused. It is the student's responsibility to schedule a time to do so outside of class time before or after school. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the quiz or test. All work assigned prior to an absence is due the date of return.

Late Work: To receive full-credit, quality work must be complete and turned in on time. Late work will be accepted for half-credit (50% of the points it would have received if turned in on-time) up to two weeks after its original due date. Work will be considered late if it is not turned in at the beginning of the period in the appropriate location.

Revisions: Projects or papers previously submitted on-time, graded and returned to you may be revised and re-submitted (within two (2) weeks of being graded/returned) for a maximum of one letter grade increase. Please make an effort to submit quality work on the first attempt.

Work Expectations: Please make an effort to submit quality work. This includes but is not limited to completing readings prior to class, proofreading your work for proper grammar and spelling, asking questions to clarify understandings, establishing contact with me or classmates for additional help, managing your time to prioritize preparation and work.

Grading: Students earn their grades based on achieving mastery of content knowledge and standards-based skills, submitting quality work, and participating in a supportive learning community (coming to class prepared, contributions to class, group work, adherence to classroom rules and expectations, etc.).

The following is in accordance with WHS grading policy:

93-100 A	87-89.9 B+	77-79.9 C+	67-69.9 D+	0-59.9 F
90-92.9 A-	83-86.9 B	73-76.9 C	60-66.9 D	
	80-82.9 B-	70-72.9 C-		

Course grades will be based on points accumulated and then weighted according to the following categories:

Classwork/Homework: 35%

Projects/Papers: 30%

Tests and Quizzes: 30%

Participation and Citizenship: 5%

Grades are updated regularly using the Northshore School District online progress report program.

Extra Credit: The teacher will use her discretion and may provide limited opportunities to earn extra credit. Please commit to making a quality effort in undertaking all assignments.

Materials for Class: 1) *The Americans* text, 2) pen/pencil, 3) notebook, 4) folder paper, and 5) a binder to hold current documents. A portfolio file system will be kept in class to compile previous work that will be used to highlight your academic growth. *Always keep your receipts!* Do not throw away/recycle work that may be used to prove previous submittals and/or used as evidence of your growth.

Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism does not help you nor your classmate(s). Both are strictly prohibited; refer to the Student Handbook for WHS policy. Learn how and take the time to cite professional literature and properly prepare to avoid engaging in dishonest academic behavior.

Electronic Devices (cell phones, iPods/MP3 players, cameras, etc.): There is a time and place (for everything!) and for using these. They are not allowed in the classroom unless you have specific permission from Ms. Morita.

Food, Gum, Drinks: To respect our learning environment, no food or gum is allowed in the classroom. Water and drinks with lids may be allowed.

Community Expectations:

- Take care of yourself.
- Take care of each other.
- Take care of this place.

Course Content (subject to change):

First Semester

The Constitution and Foundations of Government
Industrialization, Immigration, Imperialism
Reform & Progressivism
World War I

Change

Second Semester

Boom & Bust: Great Depression, New Deal
World War II
Cold War

Civil Rights Movement and the 1960s
Vietnam War and Political/Social

Modern Decades (1970s-present)

September 4, 2013

Hello Parents and Guardians,

My name is Gigi Morita and I will be your son/daughter's U.S. history teacher this year. I am really excited to have the privilege of working with you and your son or daughter and would like to take this opportunity to share a few things about myself.

I recently graduated with a Master of Education in Secondary Social Studies from the University of Washington at Bothell. During my program, I had the pleasure of student teaching at Leota Junior High and am excited to remain a part of the Northshore community! Previous to my master's program, I attended and received bachelor degrees from the University of Oregon in Psychology with minors in Economics and Communication Studies and the University of Hawaii in Business Administration (Finance). I am originally from Hawaii and have learned to appreciate both the cool, cloudy Northwest and the warm, sunny skies back home and here when we are lucky enough to see the sun!

I am very fortunate to be a part of the Woodinville High School community and will help to ensure that your son or daughter feels as welcomed in this environment. I will do my part to also help ensure his or her academic success by creating a learning environment that helps each student develop the skills and knowledge to be active, informed and responsible citizens. Our classroom will acknowledge each student's knowledge and experiences and use these to help make learning meaningful. Our social studies classroom will seek to be vibrant and challenging, using various formats such as discussion, research, reading and writing, simulations, current events, presentations, art, etc., that will equip students with transferable, lifelong skills as an engaged learner and active citizen in our community and society.

I am committed to your son or daughter's success and look forward to working with you and he or she to achieve it. If you would like to share any valuable information to help support our shared success or if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Also, I encourage you to attend **Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 12, 2013** as a way for us to become better acquainted and learn more about the goals and expectations I have for this year.

Sincerely,

Gigi Morita

WHS, Social Studies Teacher

Phone: (425)408-7442

Email: gmorita@nsd.org

Classroom Website:

..... **DETACH HERE**

Parents and Students: Please sign below indicating you and your son/daughter have read and understand the **U.S. History course syllabus** and **parent introduction letter**.

Please detach this signed portion of the letter and return it to Ms. Morita
BY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013. Thank you!

Student name: _____ Class period: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian name and relationship: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian phone and/or email (optional): _____