

United States History 2023-2024 Syllabus

Mr. Scheets / Room 317 / christopher.scheets@slps.org / 314-345-5656 x.44311

Welcome

Greeting scholars! Our objective for this year is to become a community of learners and practicing historians. History is not just a collection of names and dates, or an endless stream of facts to be memorized and forgotten. History is a way of thinking, writing and arguing and that is what we will be focused on this year. Our goal is not just to learn history, but also, to make and do history as well.

Course Description and Overview

Scholars will learn about major developments in United States history post-1870 including the origins of contemporary social, economic, and political realities. Through in-depth study and analysis of historical source material scholars will gain factual knowledge, develop practical investigative and critical thinking skills, and deepen their understanding of the connection between past and present.

Course content is broadly outlined in the unit plan below. Additionally, at the end of the year, scholars will be able to demonstrate a practical understanding of historical research, evidence, and argument relating to unit content and scholar centered topics.

Resources

We will be using Microsoft Teams to coordinate, post class materials, and engage in remote learning when necessary. This course will actively and regularly make use of student laptops. Please make sure you have yours by Monday, September 4 at the latest. Additional digital and print resources will be made available by the teacher.

Assessments

Grades will be based on the following assignments:

- Daily in-class reading, writing, collaborative and discussion activities
- Unit based research projects
- End of Semester research projects

Attendance will have a dramatic impact on your success in our class. Please come every day you are able. Late work will be accepted whenever possible. In order to be successful, it will be important to complete all assigned course work to the best of your abilities.

Classroom Expectations

Our class will follow a set routine with varied opportunities for scholar participation and engagement. At times it will be necessary to actively listen, collaborate with peers, and work independently. Each form of engagement carries a different expectation for the volume level in the classroom: from barely audible whispers to passionate (yet regulated) debate. We will be going over this in further detail during the first week of class.

Additionally, I expect scholars to be in their seats and ready to engage when the bell rings. I work hard to prepare interesting lessons and I don't want you to miss anything important. As I tell my soccer players, "Don't lose the game before it begins." Scholars are expected to bring all assigned readings, writing materials, and their laptop and charger to every class.

You can expect me to be prepared and available, firm yet fair, caring and compassionate.

I'm looking forward to a great year!

Classroom Policies

- Hall Passes are for emergencies only. Please use the restroom and get water during the passing period. Abuse of hall passes will result in removal of hall pass privileges.
- Food and Drink may be consumed in the class so long as 1) it does not cause a distraction and 2) any mess is cleaned up before you leave the class.

Classroom Policies (continued)

- Electronic Devices The only approved electronic device for use in the classroom is your district issued laptop. This is a district wide policy that applies to all SLPS scholars. Your laptop is a powerful tool. Bring it so we can use it.
- Grades will be posted in SIS promptly and regularly. You can expect to see two grades per week entered into your gradebook.

Classroom Management Plan

It is my goal to create a positive and productive learning environment for all scholars. I believe that active engagement in the learning process and a relevant education tailored to individual scholars' cultural and academic backgrounds is the best way to achieve that goal. When scholars are fully engaged, behavioral issues tend to disappear.

However, Type III infractions as outlined in the 23/24 SLPS Student Code of Conduct will be dealt with according to the following protocols:

1. Verbal warning
2. Conference with student
3. Phone call and email to parent
4. Parent - Teacher Meeting
5. Restorative Intervention / Conference
6. Referral to Counselor
7. Alternative Setting for Self-Reflection
8. Referral to Deans
9. Removal of Privileges

All teacher interventions will be recorded in the Communication Log in SIS. Type I & Type II infractions are out of my hands and will be handled by building administrators.

Course Content (unit dates are subject to change)

8/21 - 9/1	Class Introduction and Culture Building
9/4 - 9/15	Unit 1: Background Knowledge Review (Slavery and the Civil War)
9/17 - 9/29	Unit 2: Reconstruction
10/2 - 10/13	Unit 3: Manifest Destiny and Industrialization
10/16 - 10/27	Unit 4: American Imperialism
10/30 - 11/17	Unit 5: The US in the Great War
11/27 - 12/8	Unit 6: The Roaring 20's
12/11 - 12/19	End of Semester Project - Due by the end of assigned finals day (see A-B Calendar)
1/3 - 1/12	Unit 7: The Great Depression & The New Deal
1/16 - 1/26	Unit 8: America in World War II
1/29 - 2/9	Unit 9: The Cold War & The Military Industrial Complex
2/12 - 2/23	Unit 10: Civil Rights & Black Power
2/26 - 3/15	Unit 11: Nixon & The War on Drugs
3/25 - 4/5	Unit 12: US Military Interventions 1950-2000
4/8 - 4/19	Unit 13: Post Industrial Cities & The Rust Belt
4/22 - 5/3	Unit 14: US Foreign Policy Post-2001
5/6 - 5/17	Unit 15: Crisis & Recession, Protest & Reaction
5/20 - 5/23	End of Course Project - Due by the end of assigned finals day (see A-B Calendar)