

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE SYLLABUS

UNITED STATES HISTORY

Number of Credits: 1

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

U.S. History is a full-year credit course required for high school graduation. This course introduces students to major themes and changes in the United States since the Civil War. Students will use their historical understanding of the founding of the U.S. to understand how our country has changed, continues to change, and where it needs to change.

Relevance

American History is a core academic course for graduation and students with interest in the study of World History can continue their study of World History by electing to take AP World History. Students enrolled in AP World History have the potential to earn both high school credit and college credit. Through the study of World History, a student will gain an understanding of continuity and change within and across eras of time. Through this historical development, students will gain a perspective of our place as Americans in world history and the increasingly importance of diverse global connections among world societies. A student will continue to develop their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills that will provide leverage and value in other academic disciplines and provide enduring skills for life beyond high school.

Course Standards

- Analyze the causes and consequences of specific problems in United States history post c. 1870 as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by those trying to address the problem.
- Describe and evaluate the motivations for United States' entry into World War I.
- Describe and Evaluate the impact of U.S. participation in WW II and America's new role in the post-war world at home and abroad.
- Describe the causes, major conflicts, consequences, and enduring legacy of the Cold War.
- Trace changes in military strategies and technologies as a response to the challenges of the Cold War.
- Analyze the origins, goals, and key events of the continuing U.S. movements to realize equal rights for women, African Americans, and other minorities
- Evaluate the causes, patterns, and outcomes of internal migrations and urbanization.
- Describe the consequences, both intended and unintended, of government policies to improve individual and societal conditions.
- Evaluate the short and long-term impact of western expansion on Native American and other minority populations.
- Explain the varying impact of industrialization and urbanization on culture, work, education and other social institutions.

Course Outline

Unit 1 – Reconstruction, Immigration and Industrialization

Unit 2 – Imperialism, Reaction and Reform, World War I

Unit 3 – Between the Wars, World War 2, and the Cold War

Unit 4 - 9/11 and Beyond

Methods of Assessment

Final exams will be cumulative in nature, emphasizing the most essential benchmarks for the course. General assessments will be given at the end of each chapter. Written assignments and projects will be included throughout the year. In addition, participation and classwork will be evaluated. Currently the grading scale includes the following:

20% Classwork
20% Homework
30% Projects
30% Assessments

Grading scale may be adjusted to a cumulative scale with prior notice.

Grading Scale

GRADING SCALE

A = 90 - 100 percent
B = 80 - 89 percent
C = 70 - 79 percent
D = 65 - 69 percent
F = 0 - 59 percent

MAKE-UP WORK

Students submitting work up to seven school days late without prior approval may receive up to 80% on the work than they would have received if the work had been submitted on time.

Upon returning to school after an absence, a student has the responsibility within the number of days equal to the length of the absence or suspension to meet with the teacher to develop a plan for making up missed work, quizzes, and examinations. A truant student has the responsibility on the first day he or she returns to the course/class to meet with the teacher to develop a plan for making up missed work, quizzes, and examinations.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

1. Respect yourself, the teacher & others

- Show respect for the teacher, yourself and others at all times.
- Respect others' property. Avoid touching or writing on anything that does not belong to you (including desks, textbooks, teacher's belongings, walls, chalkboard, etc.). Don't expect that others will clean-up your messes. Please pick-up after yourself.
- Respect yourself and the rest of us by using appropriate language and wearing appropriate clothing.
- Be a kind person.

2. Put forth your best effort at all times

- Always do your own best work.
- Put learning ahead of getting good grades.
- Put quality ahead of just getting it done.

3. Be prepared for class each day

- Come prepared with all materials necessary:

- An organized class binder containing all necessary materials and handouts
- Looseleaf paper, pens (blue or black), and pencils
- A red or purple pen for grading in class or underlining important elements in note taking
- Highlighters for emphasizing important text
- A planner to help keep you organized - the most successful students are organized.

4. Follow directions when given

- When directions are given, do your best to follow them the first time. If you are confused or have questions, ask. I would rather have you stop class to clarify than be off task while everyone else is working.

5. Pay attention, participate and ask questions

- Engage in what is going on in the classroom. If you have a question, ask it! Otherwise, I might not know until the test that you did not understand something. There are no stupid questions, and chances are, if you are wondering about it, someone else in the class is to. Be proactive about your learning and don't be afraid to ask for help. If you feel most comfortable waiting until after class, that is okay, too, but do keep communication open between us.

6. Preserve a positive learning environment

- Student actions that interfere with teaching or learning in the classroom will NOT be tolerated.
- Use class time to learn history/government. Please do not spend your time grooming, sleeping, talking, writing notes, playing cards, listening to you Ipod, text-messaging friends, or doing work for other classes.
- Minimize classroom interruptions by arriving to class on time and not leaving the classroom during the hour.

7. Take responsibility for your actions

- If you are confronted about a rule infraction, own up to it. Don't deny it, lie about it, or blame someone else.
- Take responsibility for missed assignments.
- All handbook rules will be enforced. Please read your handbook. Students that choose to break these rules, choose to have points taken away from their learning readiness grade, and face the possibility of additional consequences.

CLASS RULES

1. No food or drink, except water

- You may drink bottled of water in the classroom. If a spill occurs, please clean it up immediately and inform the teacher.
- No other food or beverage is permitted without a doctor's note.

2. Arrive to class on time & ready to learn

- When the bell rings, you need to be sitting in your assigned seat.

- You should immediately begin on the warm up activity or journal entry.
- Be “physically” and “mentally” present in the classroom

3. Never line up/disengage before dismissal

- Remember, I dismiss you, not the bell.

4. Do not cheat, plagiarize, or copy work

- Cheating is completely unacceptable.
- Plagiarism (copying work from another source without giving proper credit) is completely unacceptable. If you plagiarize on any assignment you will earn a “0” on that assignment with no opportunity to re-do the work for credit.

6. Use polite and appropriate language

- Offensive, derogatory, and profane terms are not tolerated. In order to have a safe classroom environment where all students feel comfortable, no put downs, swear words, or slang words with demeaning connotations will be accepted. Remember, if you don’t have something nice to say, don’t say it at all!

7. Do your best work & turn it in on time

- Remember that the work that you turn-in is a reflection of your effort on the assignment.

8. Pick up after yourself before you leave

- Take all of your belongings, pick up any scrap papers around you, and put your desk back in line before you leave each day.