

## Syllabus and Course Outline

**Course: History of the Americas I**

**Instructor: Joseph Chambers**

**School Year: 2021-2022**

**Course Description:** History of the Americas is a two year curriculum that is part of the International Baccalaureate program. History of the Americas I is the junior year component and will focus on a study of events up to the early twentieth century, with special attention to the I.B. regional study topics. It is an advanced course requiring a high level of reading, writing, and analysis.

History of the Americas will be continued during the senior year, and the two-year program will culminate in the I.B. “external assessment” exams at the end of the senior year. Additionally, students will write a major research paper known as the “internal assessment” that they will begin during the first year and complete during the second.

**Course Objectives:** In accordance with the Missouri Learning Standards, the students will center on the following themes over the two-year course:

1. Tools of Social Science Inquiry
2. Re-emerging America
3. Emerging globally
4. Great Depression and WWII
5. The American Stage
6. Contemporary America

Each of these themes will develop around strands of: History: Continuity and Change, Government Systems and Principles, Geographic Study, Economic Concepts, and People, Groups and Cultures

**Topics:** During the junior year, the course will cover the history of the Americas from the beginning of European contact to the early twentieth century, with particular focus on the following I.B. regional study topics:

Independence movements (1763-1830)  
Nation-building and challenges (c1780-1870)  
United States’ Civil War: Causes, course, and effects (1840-1877)  
The development of modern nations (1865-1929)  
Emergence of the Americas in global affairs (1880-1929)  
The Mexican Revolution (1884-1940)

Additionally, the course will begin the study of the following I.B. world history topics which will be continued during the senior year:

Authoritarian states (20<sup>th</sup> century)  
    Emergence of authoritarian states  
    Consolidation and maintenance of power  
    Aims and results of policies  
Causes and effects of 20<sup>th</sup> century wars  
    Causes of war  
    Practices of war and their impact on the outcome  
    Effects of war

**Assessment:** All of the work in History of the Americas will be assigned a point value. The number of points earned during a grading period will be divided by the total number of points possible to give a percentage grade. As per Metro policy, letter grades will be given as follows:

90%-100%	= A
80%-89%	= B
70%-79%	= C
69% ↓	= F

Work will include tests, papers, quizzes over reading assignments, participation in class discussions, and special projects. Students will be assessed on their knowledge of the historical subject matter as well as the quality and clarity of their writing.

**Resources:** The primary text for the course will be *The American Pageant: A History of the Republic*, 15<sup>th</sup> ed. by David M. Kennedy and Lizabeth Cohen. This text will be supplemented with frequent readings from other books and articles as well as primary sources.

### **Classroom Procedures:**

**Attendance and tardiness:** All students are expected to be in class and on time every day. Any work missed due to tardiness or unexcused absence can only be made up if the student obtains a makeup assignment that day and completes it by the next class meeting.

**Make-up policy:** Students will be allowed to make up work that they missed due to an excused absence, but it is the student's responsibility to find out what work was missed. Tests or quizzes may only be made up outside of regular class time by appointment.

**Late work:** Any work that is not turned in at the beginning of the class period in which it is due will be subject to a 25% deduction in points if one day late, 50% for two days, or 75% for three days. (School days, not class meetings.) Work that is more than three days late will not be accepted.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Anyone found cheating or collaborating with a cheater on a test, quiz, research paper, essay, book report, etc., will be given a zero (F) for that assignment, and a conference will be set up including the student, a parent, and an administrator. A notation of the incident will be placed in the student's permanent folder. This notation will affect recommendations written by the school for you as you apply for colleges and scholarships. Anyone found copying homework/class work will be given a zero (F) for that assignment. Any use in any way of a cell phone or other device during any quiz or test will result in an automatic zero for that assessment.

### **Questions or concerns:**

If any student or their parent or guardian has any questions or concerns, they should feel free to speak to me. I can be contacted by e-mail at [joseph.chambers@slps.org](mailto:joseph.chambers@slps.org) or by phone at Metro at (314) 534-3894. Assignments and course documents are available at [www.slps.org/jchambers](http://www.slps.org/jchambers).