

# United States History Syllabus 2009-10

Mrs. Carolyn Polchow

Eighth Grade

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**Office hours:** By appointment at break, lunch or after school

Textbook: *History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism*

## **General Overview**

This course will focus on the formative years of the United States including, but not limited to its geography, notable individuals and events that helped create the cultural and historical diversity we share today. As we discover our nation's past, students will participate in discussions, readings, note-taking, classroom activities and projects, chapter reviews, quizzes and chapter tests. Students will be expected to complete a final exam or project at the end of each semester. Enrichment activities such as slides, videos, handouts, music and food will be incorporated into the course. All class activities and lessons will be tied to the California State History-Social Science Standards ([www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov)).

## **Goals of the Class**

*Students will:*

- Develop a sense of understanding the meaning of time and chronology.
- Develop a greater ability for interpreting and researching primary and secondary sources.
- Recognize the value of diverse ethnic groups and the role of women in American history.
- Evaluate historical concepts and connect them to student's personal family history, as well as to contemporary political and cultural history.

## **General Expectations**

*Classroom rules include:*

- Be on time or early for class.
- Be prepared with supplies, homework and an open mind.
- Be friendly and respect others
- Pay attention to speakers
- Take risks and try things that you think might be difficult

## **Absences**

Students who are absent must make up all work. It is the responsibility of the student to ask another student for any notes taken during her absence. Handouts and missed assignments will be marked with the student's name and be placed in an absent folder at the front of the room. It is the responsibility of the student to pick up any missed handouts/assignments from the folder. Students will have the same number of days to complete a missed assignment as they were absent. If a quiz or test is missed, a make-up will be scheduled upon return from school.

## **Academic Honesty**

When researching and preparing written papers for class, it is important to exercise academic honesty and to present work that is your own. Remember—it is plagiarism to copy the words and thoughts of another and claim them as your own. No credit will be given for plagiarized work.

## **Required Materials**

Students are required to bring the following to class daily:

- A three-ring binder with college-ruled paper OR a spiral notebook.
- Pens, pencils, highlighters, colored pencils and an eraser.
- Personal white board.
- Textbook and student workbook

## **Homework**

Homework will be given on a regular basis and is due at the beginning of class unless otherwise stated. Missed homework can be made up with an excused absence. Homework assignments will be posted on the class website as well as the classroom whiteboard. Late homework will not receive full credit and will be marked down one full grade or 10% for each day it is late. After one week, late homework is not accepted.

All homework assignments must include the following:

- Heading (full name, subject, grade, period and date)
- Assignment name and page number, when applicable
- Original question rewritten, when applicable

○	First and Last Name Subject  Name of assignment and page number	Date Period/Grade
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## **Tests and Quizzes**

Students will have advanced notice of quizzes and tests, with the exception of occasional pop quizzes. Each graded test must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the teacher. Quiz and test dates will be posted on the class website and in the classroom.

## **Grades**

Students will earn grades by participating actively in class as well as by completing homework, class work, oral and written presentations, tests, quizzes, and semester examinations. The following grade scale will be used:

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
						F	0-59

## **Extra Credit**

No extra credit is offered in this course.