

The History of the United States ~ 2011-2012

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Office Hours

Available by appointment during break, lunch and afterschool.

Course Description

This course examines the history of the United States from the Colonial Period through present day society. Students will understand the significance and consequences of events in American history, as well as analyze the effect these outcomes have on the present. In addition, students will investigate issues from multiple perspectives that will lead to an in depth understanding of the political, economic, and social systems of our country. A strong emphasis will be placed on critical reading, writing, and thinking skills.

Course Goals and Benchmarks

Throughout this course students will...

- Identify the role of human ideas, ideologies, philosophies, and values in shaping society.
- Synthesize various pieces of historical evidence and produce cogent historical analysis.
- Understand and incorporate primary and secondary sources to reconstruct and interpret the past.
- Deliver formal, oral presentations, which are organized and articulate.
- Write formal essays and a research paper, with appropriate use of references.
- Recognize our responsibility to assume a socially-just role in the greater global society.

Course Expectations

In order to develop these skills a student must...

- Respect others.
- Maintain an open mind.
- Come to class prepared and on time having completed required reading.
- Follow class procedures and school rules.
- Participate in classroom discussion and activities.
- Approach assignments with motivation, interest, and a commitment to learning.
- Keep abreast of current events.

Required Text and Materials

- The text: *America: Pathways to the Present: Modern American History* by Andrew Cayton, Elisabeth Perry, Linda Reed & Allan Winkler. Prentice Hall Co. 2007.
- A separate notebook, the larger the better.
- A binder or folder in which to save supplemental handouts and reading material.
- Blue or black pens, #2 pencils with erasers, and colored pencils or crayons.
- College-ruled lined paper.
- 3x5 index cards and highlighters.

Course Outline

First Semester Units:

- 1) Origins of a New Society and The Road to Independence (pgs. 2 – 53)
- 2) The Constitution and an Emerging New Nation (pgs. 54 – 150)
- 3) The Coming Civil War through Reconstruction (pgs. 151 – 223)
- 4) Industry, The West, Urban Immigration, and the Turn of the 20th Century (pgs. 224-349)
- 5) Becoming a World Power and The Progressive Reform Era (pgs. 350-411)
- 6) The World War I Era and Postwar Social Change (pgs. 412 – 474)
- 7) From Politics and Prosperity to Crash and Depression (pgs. 478 – 532)

Second Semester Units:

- 8) FDR and the New Deal (pgs. 534 – 562)
- 9) World War II (pgs. 563 – 632)
- 10) The Cold War and the Postwar Years at Home (pgs. 633 – 692)
- 11) The Civil Rights Movement (pgs. 696 – 730)
- 12) Kennedy, Johnson and an Era of Activism (pgs. 731 – 786)
- 13) The Vietnam War and Nixon, Ford and Carter (pgs. 787 – 860)
- 14) The Conservative Revolution and A New Era of American Politics (pgs. 861 – 922)

Grading System and Policies

Grade Calculation

Chosen assignments will be given points according to their purpose, length, and complexity. Your grade for this class will be based on the total points gained during the semester and on the semester exam. Each semester, the final exam will count for 20% of the total grade. The grading scale outlined in the student handbook will be used to determine letter grades in this class. Points will generally fall within the following values:

Classwork: 5 – 30 pts	Quiz: 10 – 30 pts	General Project: 30 – 50 pts
Homework: 2 – 10 pts	Test: 75 – 150 pts	Semester Project: 100 pts
Participation: 5 – 25 pts	Essay: 50 pts	Extra Credit: 5-20 pts

Extra Credit

An extra credit opportunity will be available at the end of each semester and will be offered to all students. The additional points earned will be added to the total point value for the semester. There will not be a penalty for students who do not complete the extra credit.

Late Work

Late classwork and homework will not be accepted. Late essays and projects will be accepted; however there will be a 10% reduction of points for each day late. Essays and projects received after class will be considered late. If you are absent on a due date, you can email your assignment as a word document attachment to avoid the late penalty.

Planned Absences

When you know you are going to be absent because of a family situation, school-sponsored activity, or other scheduled event, it is your responsibility to make arrangements prior to your absence. You will be expected to take tests and submit essays before you leave. You will be given your average classwork grade for the first missed class assignment, but additional absences will require a classwork make up assignment.

Unplanned Absences

When absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed during class and what assignments were given. Copies of handouts and maps are to be picked up from the class absent folder. If you were absent for a classwork assignment, you will be given your average classwork grade. Repeated absences will result in reduced points and a parent conference.

The first time you are absent on the day of a quiz, you will receive your average quiz grade for the missed quiz. The second time you will not receive credit for the quiz. If you are absent on the day of a test, a make-up appointment should be scheduled as soon as you return to school. The make-up test will be in essay format, and it must be completed within three days of the absence. If you do not show up to your make-up test appointment, you will not receive any credit for the test. If you are absent the day before a test, you will still be expected to take the test on the scheduled date. It is important that all assignments are recorded in the student planner so that you will be prepared in the case of an absence.

Other Important Policies

Honor Code

As women of great heart and right conscience, honor should and must come before all things. Students are expected to follow the Immaculate Heart honor code as outlined in the student handbook. Discussing assessments outside of class, copying another student's work, sharing homework and plagiarism are all violations of the honor code and will not be tolerated.

Dress Code

The Immaculate Heart dress code is an important component of the school community and is to be followed at all times. Students who are not in proper uniform will face the appropriate penalty as outlined in the student handbook.

Technology

Technology is an important part of the learning experience of the modern classroom. Several assignments throughout the year will incorporate basic and intermediate word processing and presentation skills. In addition, students will submit major writing assignments to turnitin.com. Students who do have access to a computer with internet at home will be expected to use the school lab as a resource before and after school.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus during the year as deemed necessary.

