

## Course Overview and Syllabus United States History

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The objective of this course is to increase the student's understanding of United States history through an examination of historical, political, economic, technological, religious and social events. Specifically, the class will analyze issues crucial to the events that shaped and contoured the nation that we live in today. The question that we will answer as a class is the following: "How did America become the country it is today?"

Students will:

- Examine issues and challenges faced by the United States in the process of forming a nation.
- Utilize prior knowledge of World History and connect global events to U.S History.
- Recognize the contributions of various social groups throughout American history.
- Use a variety of resources including primary source documents, political cartoons and novels to gain a more nuanced understanding of American History.

Each student is expected display to demonstrate particular knowledge based upon the above criteria and skills that will range from factual recall, analysis, evaluation of events and application of historical events. A formal grade will be an evaluation of the student's ability to master and demonstrate knowledge as it is acquired through out the semester.

A =90 - 100 (90 - 93%=A-, 94 - 100%=A)  
B = 80 - 89 (80 - 83%=B-, 84 - 86%=B, 87 - 89%=B+)  
C = 70 - 79 (70 - 73%=C-, 74 - 76%=C, 77 - 79%=C+)  
D = 60 - 69 (60 - 63%=D-, 64 - 66%=D, 67 - 69%=D+)  
F = 50-59

Content Knowledge 15%: The student will be evaluated on the ability to factually recall information and events as it relates to study of the history of the United States. The assessed using two-midterm exams, the semester final, and weekly quizzes.

Analysis and Reasoning 20%: The student will be evaluated on one's to analyze, compare and contrast, and evaluate events with in the context of U.S. history. The assessment tools that will be used are take-home essays, the midterm exams, the semester final, DBQ's and responses to various historical reading articles.

Oral and Visual Presentation 10%: The student will be completing two digital presentations through out the year. There will be one per semester and the students will be asked to present upon various events that have happened with in the context of United States history. The students will also be asked to give three short two-minute presentations on a topic that will be assigned to them during the prior days class.

Conceptual Understanding 15%: The student will be asked to have a conceptual understanding of events as it applies to the History of our country. The students will be asked to apply and evaluate these concepts through the use of three authentic assessments. An authentic assessment is asking the student to “put themselves in the shoes” of the people that lived through these events.

Summative Assessments 40%: At the end of each unit the student will be completing some form of summative assessment (ex: multiple choice, short answer, essay,) During this time the student will be able to demonstrate the knowledge learned from the unit.

Illness: Students are responsible for obtaining all missed assignments the day they return to class. Make-up tests and quizzes may differ from the original. All assignments will be listed on my teacher web page which is updated with important due dates on assignments that may have been assigned while the student was absent.

Extra curricular activities and field trips: Each student is responsible for submitting assignments and arranging for missed tests before the scheduled absence. The student is asked to check the web page and they must speak with me about making up quizzes or tests.

**Please bring these to class every day, starting Day Two:**

A lined or blank notebook; a reliable pen or pencil; a set of eight colored pencils or fine-point markers; 3” Post-It Notes; two packs of 100 3x5” lined index cards (one pack will be kept in class)

Your Interactive Notebook, housed in a 1 ½” binder. You may need a larger one later. Start small for now.

Other Class Rules

1. Students will come to class prepared to learn and respect the rights of others to learn.
2. Students will be responsible for their own actions.
3. Students are expected to take notes on a daily basis and maintain a comprehensive, well-organized class notebook.
4. Students are always required to be on time to class.

We have reviewed and understand the course overview.

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Parent Signature

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Date

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Student Signature

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Date