

Mr. Magda

U. S. History III (H)

WILBY HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course covers American history from the Reconstruction period/Gilded Age to the present. The objectives of the course are: 1) to expand students' knowledge of American history; 2) to broaden students' understanding of the rise of the United States as a world power; 3) to deepen students appreciation of the historical roots of contemporary problems and issues, and how history can be used to enhance comprehension of issues and trends in politics, economics and culture; 4) to further develop students' awareness of political parties and their role in American history; 5) to improve students' understanding of cause and effect relationships and their long-term consequences; and 6) to sharpen students' thinking, writing and speaking skills.

COURSE TEXT:

Lapsansky, Emma, et al. United States History (Boston: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2008)
Additional readings and handouts will be assigned as necessary.

Wilby High Core Values and Beliefs:

The students, faculty, staff, and administration of Wilby High School will work cooperatively with families, members of the community, and the Board of Education to create a safe, welcoming, and academic environment which embraces, challenges, and nurtures the diverse talents, interests, and learning styles of all its students. All students will leave Wilby High School with the self-respect, respect for others, knowledge, and skills necessary to become independent, intellectually curious, and self-fulfilled members of society.

Wilby High Academic, Social and Civic Expectations for Students:

In order to succeed in this course, students will have to demonstrate and fulfill Wilby High School's academic, social and civic expectations for student learning. Each student must be an **effective reader** and an **effective writer**. Active reading, thinking about and analyzing the material is essential. To write effectively, your thoughts must be well organized and your use of language precise and appropriate. To master topics and assignments, a student must be a **self-directed learner** and an **effective problem solver** as you will have to gather and organize substantial amounts of information. master it, and apply it to answer questions and address historical issues and problems. Working with your fellow students in a variety of ways, sharing information and ideas as individuals or in group activities, each student must be a **collaborative and cooperative worker**. Doing all of the above will help you to become a **respectful person** and a **community contributor** who is capable of using his or her knowledge and skills to make valuable contributions to society. Rubrics will be used to measure your relative performance on each of the academic, social and civic expectations.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS: Completion of assigned readings and written work, and informed participation in class discussions are expected. Students should maintain a well-organized notebook that will include not only all course notes, but also completed tests and quizzes and other graded assignments. Adherence to the above practices is essential; otherwise you will not perform well in this course. *Please ask questions if you do not understand any of the readings, assignments, lectures or discussions.* I will assist any student who needs additional guidance.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS: Arrive for class on time. Tardiness will result in a reduction of your term grade and final grade for the course. If you are late for class you must have a pass to enter class and to avoid being marked tardy. Excessive tardiness will result in a referral. .Bring a pen or pencil, a notebook and your textbook to class. It is your responsibility to be prepared for class everyday. Do not expect the teacher to provide you with these items. You will receive a zero for each day that you are not prepared for class. **There is no mystery about how to do well in school. There is a simple, easy formula to follow: pay attention, take good notes, complete readings and assigned work, and study for tests. Follow this formula and you will be successful. If you do the opposite you will not do well or even fail.**

Complete all class work and homework on time. Failure to meet deadlines will result in an appropriate reduction of your grade. Cheating on assignments and tests will not be tolerated. In such instances, the student will receive no credit for an assignment and a zero for a test. It is your responsibility to make up any missed assignments, tests or class work. You have one week to make up any missed work or tests. A zero will be given for any missed work or tests that are not made up within the required time. Additional time to make up work will only be allowed in cases of extended illness or other emergency.

Good behavior is expected. Be polite and courteous in your words and actions. Unnecessary talking is unacceptable. Students who disrupt the learning process will be asked to leave the class and will be referred to the office for disciplinary action. No food or drink in class.

RESEARCH PAPER: Each student will write a research paper (5 to 7 pages in length). This paper is to be typed, double-spaced, and must include end notes and a bibliography (properly formatted). The cover page, end notes and bibliography do not count as part of the required number of pages. Each paper should have a clear and decisive thesis. Topics for papers must receive my approval. The paper must be done in Modern Language Association (MLA) style. You will find a useful guide to MLA style for research papers at the MLA web site

GRADING: Your grade will be based on your performance on note-taking, worksheets, quizzes, tests, free-writing essays, document-based essays, analysis of video-based material, the research paper, group work, homework, oral presentations and class participation. The latter includes coming prepared for class each day (bringing your pen/pencil, notebook and textbook to class), arriving on time, proper class behavior, and joining in class discussions. You should maintain a well-organized notebook. Each student will complete projects and present them to the class. The projects are required and will be a major part of the grade for the appropriate marking term. In addition to marking term grades, the school district requires **mid-term** and **final** exams, which will play an important role in determining the eventual course grade for the entire year.

Signature indicates you have read this course description and accept the stated requirements.

Parent/Guardian name _____ Signature _____

Student name _____ Signature _____

Date _____