

American History

Syllabus

American History (Required) Grade Level: 10th Length: Two Semesters Credit: 1 Credit

Description: American History for sophomores is designed as a concentrated study of our nation from post American Civil War to the present. Students will develop a historical and ethical empathy for the application of history's lessons to future problem solving. Critical thinking and writing will be emphasized. Current issues will be discussed and evaluated in their historical context. The twentieth century has witnessed profound changes and will be the focus of intense study.

Unit Outline:

Unit 1: The Birth of Modern America (1865-1900)

Unit 2: Imperialism and Progressivism (1880-1920)

Unit 3: Boom and Bust (1920-1941)

Unit 4: Global Struggles (1931-1960)

Unit 5: A Time of Upheaval (1954-1980)

Unit 6: Toward Equality and Social Reform (1954-1976)

Unit 7: A Changing Society (1968 – Present)

Course Text and Materials:

- Numerous handouts, primary and secondary source readings, study guides, and outside book readings.

Students will need:

- ✓ College-lined notebook (perforated)
- ✓ Student Agenda
- ✓ A black or blue pen.

Class Expectations:

- **Be on Time** - You are expected to be in class every day, on time every day, and properly prepared every day.
- **Be Prepared and willing to learn - Always** bring your text, notebook, and a writing utensil to class **everyday!** You cannot participate effectively if you are unprepared. Class will only be enjoyable for you and for me if everyone shows up with a desire to learn about American history.
- **Participate-** You will learn more and do well in class if you participate actively everyday! All students have a right to their opinions (popular and unpopular).
- **Be Respectful** – to your classmates, your teacher, the room, and yourself! We will discuss controversial issues in class, and you will all have a chance to express your opinions on these matters. Class discussion cannot be effective in a climate of intolerance. Be prepared to ask questions and to listen to the questions of others without passing judgment on them.
- **Do your own work** - Cheating will not be tolerated. You are expected to do your own work to the best of your ability Remember, your personal honor and integrity are a very precious and important part of who you are as a person. Therefore, I expect that you will do all of your OWN work at all times (see the High School Handbook for information regarding cheating/plagiarism).

Grading Scale

Grading will be based according to school district policy, which is the following:

A+	100	B+	92-91	C+	84-83	D+	76-75
A	99-96	B	90-87	C	82-79	D	74-71
A-	95-93	B-	86-85	C-	78-77	D-	70-69

Quarter Grades will be weighted according to the following breakdown:

Tests = 60%

Projects = 20%

Daily Work = 20%

Semester Grades will be weighted according to the following District standard:

Quarter 1 = 40%

Quarter 2 = 40%

Semester Test = 20%

Topic Outline:

Unit 1:

- Settling the West
- Industrialization
- Urban America
- Politics and Reform

Unit 2:

- Becoming a World Power
- The Progressive Movement
- World War I and Its Aftermath

Unit 3:

- The Jazz Age
- Normalcy and Good Times
- The Great Depression Begins
- Roosevelt and the New Deal

Unit 4:

- A World in Flames
- America and World War II
- The Cold War Begins
- Postwar America

Unit 5:

- The New Frontier and the Great Society
- The Civil Rights Movement
- The Vietnam War
- The Politics of Protest

Unit 6:

- Politics and Economics (1971-1980)
- Resurgence of Conservatism
- Into a New Century

Unit 7:

- America In the Post 9/11 World

**Note: I reserve the right to modify this course syllabus as I seem fit. Things are subject to change as the year progresses.