



United States History A

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course is a requirement for graduation and usually is taken during the sophomore year. The course will examine the discipline of History and major U.S. historical events from the 1930's and World War II to the Kennedy and Johnson administrations in the 1960's. Students will be involved in a variety of activities which will allow them to examine historical topics using the process of historical inquiry.

There are regular reading assignments for this course so that students are prepared for classroom discussion and activities. It is of *vital* importance that students come

Course Outcomes

prepared for class with these readings completed.

Students will gain understanding of American Social, Political and Economic History during the 20th century. Some of the themes that will be explored: War and Conflict, America in the World, the American Dream, Science and Technology, Economic Opportunity, Immigration and Migration, Women in America, the Civil Rights Issues, Constitutional Concerns, Cultural Diversity and Democracy in America.

While investigating historical themes, students will gain an understanding of and practice the following skills: Document analysis/clarifying/summarizing, analyzing motives, analyzing and recognizing causes and effects, comparing and contrasting, developing a historical perspective, using primary and secondary sources, interpreting maps, charts and graphs.

Instructor Contact Information and Availability

Apply historical knowledge to current issues.

Mr. Zelenak

Room 271

763.391.8500 Voicemail 32271

zelenakg@district279.org

Office Hours for Extra Help:

7:00-7:30 and 2:00-2:30

Guided Study (Open invitation to all students):

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:20 – 9:45

On occasion, other responsibilities such as meetings, extra curricular duties and other business may conflict with these hours. It is recommended that you check with the instructor for availability.

Unit Structure and Topics

Introduction to History/Historical Processes

- History and the Historian

World War II

- The Coming of War
- From Isolation to Involvement
- The European and Pacific Fronts
- The Holocaust
- America on the Homefront

The Cold War Begins

- Two Opposing Nations
- Chinese and Korean Wars
- The Cold War Heats Up
- Cold War Fear at Home

Post War America

- Economic Boom
- American Society in the 1950s

The Civil Rights Movement

- From Segregation towards Equality
- Triumphs of the Crusade
- Changes to the Movement

The Kennedy and Johnson Years

- Kennedy's "New Frontier"
- Johnson's "Great Society"

Course Text

United States History: Modern America

Lapsansky-Werner, Roberts, Levy and Taylor

Pearson-Prentice Hall, Boston, MA 2008

Class Website

With time at a premium, a website has been created to improve home and school communication and assist students and parents keep up with classroom activities, resources, assignments and due dates. In addition the website contains downloadable and printable assignments, handouts and other materials that may be helpful to students. This site can be found on the web at:

www.mrzsneighborhood.com

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