

Mr. Melbrough
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US History Syllabus 2009-2010

Course Overview

Many people view history merely as a set of dates and facts to be memorized, but history is much more than that. History is an organic and ever-changing discipline, periodically discovering new evidence and revising old commonly held beliefs. It's not enough to learn history itself; one must learn from history the true essence of the human experience. This course is designed for that purpose.

Starting with the native inhabitants of North and South America this course will examine how the history of the United States has changed over time. From the moment Columbus stepped of the boat to 9-11, the history of the people who have lived in this country has transformed due to political, social, cultural and military events. We will examine these events and build our own conclusions on how these events affected the history of the people in America using historical documents, art, music, film and selected readings.

Major Themes of the Course

These themes are woven throughout unit discussions, with assessments (Test/quizzes, essays, projects etc..) being structured around them:

America on a World Stage

National Identity and Citizenship

Political Change and Continuity

Pluralism and Group Identity

Free Markets and Economic Transformation

Course Materials

Textbook

Appleby et.al *The American Vision: Modern Times*. Glencoe; 12th ed., 2006

Web sites:

<http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/Slavery/index.php> (*Atlantic Slave Trade and Slave Life in the Americas: a Visual Record*). This site contains maps, drawings paintings and documents for student analysis.

http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page (*The Gutenberg Project*). This site has numerous online and free books to be used in the classroom

Course Expectations:

All students will...

- ✓ Follow the four classroom norms: Be punctual, be engaged, be respectful, and be prepared.
- ✓ *Makeup all class and homework assignments that they missed during their absences within three (3) school days. Students with unexcused absences will not receive credit for missed class and homework assigned that day.*
- ✓ *NOT miss test or quiz days unless you have an excused absence. No makeup quizzes or tests will be allowed for unexcused absences. Students with excused absences will makeup tests or quizzes per teacher availability or within four (4) school days.*
- ✓ **NO CELL PHONES/NO LATE WORK/NO IPODS**
- ✓ *If you bring food or drink into the room, YOU MUST carry it out...I am not your maid.*
- ✓ Each student will turn in a portfolio as part of his or her final grade. Samples of the following work must be included – papers, test, quizzes, maps, homework/class work
- ✓ Keep a well-organized and complete 2” binder and bring it to class on a daily basis. I highly encourage the use of insertable dividers.
- ✓ Ask me for help if you need it—I am here to help you reach your academic potential.

GRADING POLICY

Homework (25%): This grade will be determined by performance on Primary Document Activities, assigned notes, and essays.

Participation (20%): This grade will be determined by students’ attendance, engagement and class work.

Quizzes and Tests (35%): Students will have a total of 6 major unit tests. Occasional pop quizzes, and an objectives mastery quiz every 2 weeks.

Essays and Writing Assignments (20%): Students will be asked to write essays in response to questions that will challenge them to think critically about the objectives we address in class.

Students are strongly encouraged to work diligently to **earn** the grade they desire. No student should desire to earn under a 70%.

A=100-93

A- = 92-90

B+ = 89-87

B = 86-83

B - = 82-80

C+ = 79-77

C = 76-73

C - = 72-70

D + = 69-67

D = 66-64

F= 63 and Below

1st Semester

Unit 1: A Nation is Born Pre-Columbian -1900 Ch 1-3 Aug 26-Oct 22

Unit 2: Imperialism and Progressivism 1890-1919 Ch 4-6 Oct 26-Nov 16

Unit 3: Boom and Bust 1920-1941 Ch 7-10 Nov 17-Jan 15

2nd Semester

Unit 4: Global Struggles 1931-1960 Ch 11-14 Jan 25-Feb 12

Unit 5: A Time of Upheaval 1954-1980 Ch 15-18 Feb 16-Mar 25

Unit 6: A Changing Society 1968-Present Ch 19-21 Apr 5-June 8

1990-2009 Final Projects

May 18th - June 11th

Students will complete a final project about the 1990's and 2000's using a variety of sources from in and out of class. Students will also have a variety of choices in which to present the project. Though this project will be the bulk of your final quarter grade, a final exam will still take place. More information on the final project will be made available the closer we get to the dates.

Course syllabus subject to change due to Mr. Melbrough's discretion