United States History

Course Overview: What will I learn in United States History?

**U.S. History** is a challenging course that is meant to enhance your analytical reading, writing and thinking skills necessary for success in life. By learning the methodology of a historian, you learn highly transferable skills - the ability to formulate generalizations, interpret and use data and to analyze and weigh evidence from conflicting sources of information.

We will study the political, cultural, diplomatic, intellectual and economic history of the United States. You will become familiar with the themes that encourage us to think conceptually about the United States past and to focus on historic change over time. These themes include diversity, Unites States identity, culture, immigration, economic change, the environment, globalization, political traditions, civil rights, reform, religion, slavery, and the impact of war on foreign policy. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, analysis, interpretation and evaluation of original documents, and historiography.

What you will be expected to learn in this class is not just a select group of facts or events; instead, you will be asked to develop your interpretation, in collaboration with classmates, of United States history. What does the history of this country mean to you? Where do you find the place of you, your family and your experiences within United States history? Is U. S. history a history filled with heroic deeds performed by heroic people? Is it a history of discrimination highlighted by the struggle of ordinary people to overcome that discrimination? Is it a history of wars and other conflicts fought to protect the "American Dream?" Is it a history of social struggle against tyranny and injustice? Is it a combination? How does the past shape the present? How might understanding the past improve the future?

**Proficiency Focused Learning:** This course has a proficiency focus on learning, which means:
- Expectations for what a student will be able to know and do in this course will be clear to students and parents. I will do this by providing outcome-oriented rubrics with each summative assessment, and connect standards to assignments. Communication about how a student is progressing in attaining the skills and knowledge that are important in this course will be clearly communicated. I will do this by posting assignments and due dates on Jump Rope, updating student progress in Jump Rope regularly, communicating with students directly about their progress during class time, Students are supported by teachers to attain the skills and knowledge of the course, and/or challenged to reach beyond the standard. I will do this by being available for student support during A.R.E. block and after school time, provide multiple modes of learning during class time, create challenging experiences for students at the distinguished level.

**Anchor Standards:** This course will assess the knowledge and skills students build in key Anchor Standards, A student will have multiple opportunities to show their proficiency in each Anchor Standard. Below, each Anchor Standard for this course is named and described.
- **Sourcing:** Who is giving me this information? Why does it matter?
- **Arguing and Explaining:** How can I use what I know to inform and persuade others?
- **Taking Action:** How can I use my ideas to impact the world around me?
- **Speaking and Listening:** How can I share and grow my ideas through respectful dialogue?

**Units:** Throughout this course we will engage with content to build our knowledge and skills. Below is an outline of the units for this course.
- Drifting Toward Disunion
- The Furnace of Civil War The Ordeal of Reconstruction The Four I’s
- 4 I’s Indians , Immigration , Industrialization , Imperialism
- The War to End War - WWI
- The Politics of Boom and Bust , and New Deal
- America in World War Two .
- The Cold War Begins
- The Stormy Sixties
- America Confronts the Post - Cold War Era
- The American People Face a New Century

**Activities: What will we be doing in this Class**

- We will be using a variety of Primary Source Case Studies to examine specific areas of US History
- Readings and accompanied activities from a text titled “Reasoning With Democratic Values”
- Writing document based essays
- Mini debates on issues in American History
- Group projects

**ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING, GRADING AND REPORTING:**

Three types of assessments will be used to determine if you have gained the necessary knowledge and skills of this course: Formative Assessments, Summative Assessments, and Habits of Work for Learning. The grade in this course will be based on Formative & Summative Scores (95%) and HOWLs (5%). For more info about assessment types, scoring, and overall grade calculation, please click here.

**Materials:** In keeping with the theme of teaching students to be historians we will not be using a text book this year in United States History. In its place we will be using a variety of primary and secondary source readings to facilitate an understanding and interpretation of history. Along with the source readings, the students will be watching a History Channel series called “America the Story of Us” as well as other history documentaries.

**Class Expectations:** I hold very high expectations for both student achievement and behavior. The following course policies are designed to ensure that we create and maintain a positive academic environment.

**Classroom Rules:** Students are expected to follow the course rules at all times. The class is based on the principles of respect, responsibility, and community - all are necessary to create an atmosphere in which all students feel comfortable and one that is most conducive to learning.
**Expectations:** Students will be: 1. Prompt – be on time and prepared for class when the bell rings. 2. Prepared - have appropriate materials and participate every class 3. Polite - respect the instructor, other students, and themselves – the use of offensive or inappropriate language / actions will not be tolerated.