Modern United States History: Civil War to Present Day

Fall Semester 2015

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Room 220

This course will cover events in United States History from Reconstruction to the present day. As such, it will include a variety of information and topics. Keep in mind that we will be spending more in class time learning about certain time periods, and less time learning about others. You will be responsible for writing, researching, and analyzing nonfiction texts. As a college preparatory class, you will be writing a lot. You will also be sharpening your skills in the following areas: critical debate, map analysis/identification, analyzing change and consequences over the span of U.S. History, and analyzing timelines (just to name a few).

Time periods we will be learning about in order include:

1. Reconstruction of the Union – Post Civil War America.

Key Learnings/Understandings

* Early Steps towards Reconstruction
* Radical Republicans/Radical Reconstruction
* The South Under Reconstruction
* Jim Crow Laws/Black Codes
* The End of Reconstruction

1. The New West: Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion

Key Learnings/Understandings:

* Indian People of the Great Plains
* Mining and the Transcontinental Rail Road
* The Cattle Kingdom
* Indian People in retreat/The Indian Wars
* Farming on the Great Plains

1. Industrial Growth/Changes in the Working Class

Key Learnings/Understandings

* Railroads helping to spur industrial growth
* The Rise of Big Businesses
* Inventions that Change the Nation/World
* The Rise of Organized Labor/Labor Laws

1. A New Urban Culture/The Growth of Cities

Key Learnings/Understandings

* New Immigrants help industrial growth
* Anti-Immigration Movement
* An Age of Cities
* Urban Life in the New Cities
* Public Education
* Rise of American Culture

1. The Progressive Era

Key Learnings/Understandings

* Reform in the Gilded Age
* The Progressive Movement
* Progressives in the White House
* Women Win Reforms
* Other Americans Seek Justice

1. The United States Becomes a World Power

* Growing Empire in the Pacific
* The Spanish American War
* United States Involvement in Latin America

1. The First World War

Key Learnings/Understandings

* Effects of Imperialism
* The War in Europe
* Neutrality to War
* Americans Join the Battlefield
* The Failed Peace

1. The Roaring Twenties

Key Learnings/Understandings

* Politics of Prosperity
* New Ways of Life
* Popular Culture
* The “Roaring Twenties,”
* A Nation Divided
* Prohibition
* Organized Crime

1. The Great Depression

Key Learnings

* The Great Crash
* FDR and the New Deal
* New Deal, New Policies
* Response to New Deal Policies
* The Nation in Hard Times
* The Dustbowl

1. The Second World War

Key Learnings/Understandings

* Effects of Treat of Versailles
* The War Begins
* Japanese Aggression
* Germany Rolls over Europe
* Americans in Wartime
* The Allies Turn the Tide
* The End of the War
* America Becomes a Superpower

1. The Cold War Era

Key Learnings/Understandings

* World War Two Ends, Cold War Begins
* The Korean War
* Regional Conflicts
* A President is Killed, a Nation Mourns
* The War in Vietnam
* The Second Red Scare

1. Prosperity, Rebellion, and Reform

Key Learnings/Understandings

* Postwar Policies and Prosperity
* The Civil Rights Movement
* Protest, Reform, and Doubt
* The Crusade for Equal Rights

1. The New Nation in a New World

Key Learnings/Understandings

* The Conservative Revolt
* American Leadership in a New World
* The Spread of Regional Conflicts
* A Global Economy
* The Rise of the Internet
* International Terrorism Takes Hold
* New Challenges in the 21st Century

Grading Policy

Grades will be based upon the following:

Homework

Tests

Quizzes

Individual and Group Projects

Research Papers

Portfolio Checks

Current Event Journals

Examples of projects include, but are not limited to:

The Decade Project

Immigration Project

Conquests vs. Controversies

Organized Crime Project

Vietnam Timeline

**Current Event Journals:**

Over the course of the semester you will be responsible for tracking current events throughout the week, documenting the 5W’s, and expressing your opinion on the subject. Once a week, a student will present their findings to the class, we will do this on a rotating basis every week until the end of the year. I will check and grade current event journals at the end of each week.

**Behavior Guidelines/Responsibilities:**

This should be a non-issue as you are all responsible high school students. However; the following rules are in place.

1. Come to class prepared. Bring all required materials, supplies, notebooks, and current event journals.

2. Cheating will not be tolerated. Anyone found guilty of cheating will receive a zero for the assignment and teacher detentions.

3. Stay seated at all times, keep hands and objects to yourself.

4. Raise your hand to speak.

5. Be respectful and courteous at all times (with me and with each other).

6. Check yourself, before you wreck yourself (enter class with a positive attitude, check your attitudes at the door).

**Consequences**

1. First offense is a verbal warning.

2. Second offense is a teacher detention and a call home.

3. Third offense will result in a referral to the office and a call home/possible parent conference.

4. Fourth offense: Buddy, you’re done.

If there are any questions/concerns that you have throughout the year, please feel free to contact me via email, or stop in to see me in my classroom 216. Please do this as soon as possible so we can solve any problems and continue the learning process.