



**Sycamore High School
Social Studies Department
Course Syllabus
Course Title: American History
Instructor: Mr. McCormick**



Course Description:

U.S. History is a full-year course designed to introduce students to the major political, economic, and social events of the 20th century. American History is a required course for graduation. *This course is NCAA approved.*

Social Studies Department Critical Outcomes:

- Recognize and critically analyze primary, secondary, and tertiary sources.
- Identify, comprehend, and develop the ability to utilize high frequency vocabulary words in social studies.
- Identify cause and effect trends across the social science disciplines
- Compare and contrast trends and historical patterns.
- Demonstrate an ability to write concisely with a focus on evidence and support.
- Formulate an opinion grounded in an objective critical consideration of available evidence.

Content Overview:

Unit	Chapters
1 Getting Oriented	1: What Is History 2: Defining and Debating America’s Founding Ideals
2 The Progressive Era	16: Uncovering Problems at the Turn of the Century 17: The Progressives Respond 18: Progressivism on the National Stage
3 Building and Empire	19: Setting a Course for Expansion 20: The Spanish-American War 21: Acquiring and Managing Global Power
4 World War I	22: From Neutrality to War 23: The Course and Conduct of World War I 24: The Home Front 25: The Treaty of Versailles: To Ratify or Reject?
5 The Twenties	26: Understanding Postwar Tensions 27: The Politics of Normalcy 28: Popular Culture in the Roaring Twenties 29: The Clash Between Traditionalism and Modernism
6 The Great Depression and New Deal	30: The Causes of the Great Depression 31: The Response to the Economic Collapse 32: The Human Impact of the Great Depression 33: The New Deal and Its Legacy
7 World War II end of 1st semester	34: Origins of World War II 35: The Impact of World War II on Americans 36: Fighting World War II 37: The Aftermath of World War II
8 The Early Cold War	38: Origins of the Cold War 39: The Cold War Expands 40: Fighting the Cold War at Home

9 The Fifties	41: Peace, Prosperity, and Progress 42: Rebelling Against Conformity 43: Two Americas
10 The Civil Rights Movement	44: Segregation and the Postwar World 45: The Civil Rights Revolution 46: Redefining Equality 47: The Widening Struggle
11 The Sixties	48: The Age of Camelot 49: The Great Society 50: The Emergence of a Counterculture
12 The Vietnam War	51: The United States Gets Involved in Vietnam 52: Facing Frustration in Vietnam 53: Getting Out of Vietnam
13 The Seventies and Eighties	54: The Rise and Fall of Richard Nixon 55: Politics and Society of the “Me” Decade 56: A Shift to the Right Under Reagan 57: Ending the Cold War
14 Framing the Present	58: US Domestic Politics at the Turn of the 21 st Century 59: US Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Era 60: 9/11 and Its Aftermath

Textbook

History Alive!: Pursuing American Ideals

Students will **NOT** be given physical copies of the text. We have a classroom set that will be used at school. Students will have access to the text online by signing-in at www.learntci.com/sign_in. Students will create their accounts the first week of class.

Assessment/Parent Portal

Your semester grade (without including the final exam) will be based on the following assessments:

Summative Exams(40%) – Approximately every 3-4 weeks, you will take an in-class exam. These exams will generally cover 3-4 chapters in the textbook. Unit exams may contain a variety of question types, including essays. Summative Evaluation may take the form of large projects as well.

Formative Tests (30%) – Quizzes over the content of each unit will be given prior to the Summative Evaluation. Quiz questions may be multiple-choice, true or false, short answer, or in essay formats.

Classwork (30%) – Daily work may consist of reading assignments, worksheets, essays, projects, etc.

The final exam in this class is worth 20% of your overall semester grade.

Grading Scale:

A+ = 98-100%

B+ = 87-89%

C+ = 77-79%

D+ = 67-69%

F = lower than 60%

A = 93-97

B = 83-86

C = 73-76

D = 63-66

A- = 90-92

B- = 80-82

C- = 70-72

D- = 60-62

Parents/students may check grades at any time by accessing the *Infinite Campus Portal*. Every effort will be made to update grades on a weekly basis. Please understand that it may take a while to enter project grades or longer assignments.

Google Classroom: 4k4mm6

Google Classroom is a website that we will be using for file sharing and class updates. Keep in mind that this website is an extension of the classroom and you will be subject to disciplinary action for any wrongdoing. Grades in *Google Classroom* may NOT reflect final grades in *Infinite Campus*. *Google Classroom* offers online learning and grading, however this does NOT sync automatically with *Infinite Campus*. Therefore, grades in *Google Classroom* may require additional time before it is entered into *Infinite Campus*.

General Guidelines

Classroom Management:

This class will follow the stated school policy regarding tardiness, absences, and disciplinary measures. Please read those sections in the student handbook for further explanation. Cell phones and music players should be turned off and put away once you enter the room. Headphones and earbuds must also be put away.

Late Work:

All homework assignments must be turned in on time (when collected during class) to receive full credit. Late work may be turned in for partial credit. Please note that once you fall significantly behind (more than a couple of days), it will take some effort on your part to catch up.

Absences:

It is the responsibility of the student to obtain all missed assignments. You will be given a reasonable amount of time to complete any missing work.

General Rules:

- Be PROMPT: Take your seat quietly when the bell rings. If you are not in the classroom when the bell sounds, you will be marked tardy.
- Be PREPARED: Bring all necessary materials to class every day. You will not be allowed to go to your locker once the bell has rung.
- Be POLITE: Treat other students and your teacher with respect. Inappropriate behavior will be dealt with in accordance with the school discipline code.
- Follow PROCEDURES: Follow all classroom procedures. This is American History class. If you are working on something other than American History during class time, it may be taken away from you.
- PARTICIPATE: Use class time positively. Debate and discussion are regular activities in American History class. Students should be able to engage in these activities without being obnoxious or offensive.
- Hats will NOT be permitted during lectures and classroom activities. Any hat of questionable taste will be asked to be removed. Any missed information or time loss will be at the student's expense.

Computer/Network Acceptable Use Policy

Continuous infractions of the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) may result in removal from the class with a failing grade. **With the rollout of one to one, cell phones are no longer needed in the classroom at any time. Students will expect to follow instructions in regards to storing cell phones appropriately. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary measures.**