

"The people are the ultimate guardians of their own liberty. For this purpose the ... first stage, where they will receive their whole education is proposed to be chiefly historical"

Thomas Jefferson, *Reasons for Establishing the Public Schools of Virginia*, 1779

U.S. History: Class Syllabus

Mr. Piccony

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Office Hours – 8:20 – 9:00 AM, Spartan Stretch, or by appointment

TEXTBOOK: *History Alive! Pursuing American Ideals*, Teachers' Curriculum Institute, 2008

https://student.teachtci.com/student/sign_in

OVERVIEW: U.S. History is the study of the development of social, economic, and political institutions in the United States and includes the relationship of this country to other parts of the world during various periods in our history. General themes and concepts are stressed with an added emphasis on analysis, that is, the methods used by historians in interpreting the past. The course is NCAA approved/accredited.

OBJECTIVES: Students shall:

1. Explain the tentative nature of historical interpretations.
2. Analyze historical trends of United States foreign policy.
3. Identify political ideas that have dominated U.S. history during the twentieth century.
4. Describe social consequences of political events in the United States.
5. Analyze the relationship between an issue in United States social history and the related aspects of political, economic, and environmental history.

SCHEDULE:

Unit One:	What is History and Why Study It?
Unit Two:	Changing of U.S. Society
Unit Three:	World War I
Unit Four:	From Boom to Bust
Unit Five:	World War II (Holocaust)
Unit Six:	Cold War to 1960
Unit Seven:	1960's and Vietnam
Unit Eight:	Toward the New Century

CLASS RULES: This class will follow the stated school policies regarding tardiness, absences, and disciplinary measures. Make sure to read those sections in your student handbook for further information. To ensure a productive learning environment, students must act in a mature and respectful manner, both toward the teacher and peers. Any discipline issues will be addressed as per the student handbook.

ABSENCES: Students are responsible for any missed assignments or in class work. It is also the student's responsibility to inform the teacher of any absences. Students must take care of any absence in the office BEFORE the start of class.

GRADING:

Letter grades are determined by using an 80% semester and 20% final exam calculation. Grades are based on the following scale:

A+ = 100%-98	A = 97 – 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 – 63%	D- = 62 – 60%
F = 59% and lower		

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

Summative Assessments (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.

Formative Assessments (30%) – A quiz will be given at the end of most chapters. Quiz questions may be multiple-choice, true or false, short answer, or in essay formats.

Practice (Class Work) (30%) – Anything else done to prepare you for assessments

MAKE-UP WORK:

Quizzes can be made up prior to school or by appointment.

Make sure to let me know when you plan to do a make-up. Criteria for a make-up exam will be determined by the student and teacher. All work must be turned in on time. Excused absences will be allowed the standard make-up time as stated in the school handbook. Any unexcused absence will result in a zero for any missed assignments. No work will be accepted one week prior to a grading period.

MATERIALS:

It is suggested that students have a folder and notebook specifically for this class alone.

TECHNOLOGY:

While it is believed technology does have some educational purposes, it also must be used so as not to cause a distraction to yourself or others. Cell phones and like devices must be stored in the classroom distraction station. Now that we are a 1:1 school, there should be no need for cell phone use unless the instructor has approved it. Cell phones must not be visible on assessment days.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

Be Prepared! Make sure to bring all necessary materials to class each day. Staying aware of current events will be important for class discussion. Finally, think with an open mind in this class and weigh every opinion equally.