

U.S. History
Class Syllabus
Mr. Spicer
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Office Hours: *Spartan Stretch, 10th, by appointment*

Overview: United States 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 added emphasis on analysis, that is, the methods used by historians in interpreting the past and also the formation of your own opinions about historical events and how they contributed to the world we currently live in today.

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 the United States social history and the related aspects of political, economic and environmental history.
6. Make connections between United States PEGS and other countries both today and in the past.
7. Learn something other than content.

Absences: Students will be responsible for any missed assignments or classwork. It is also your responsibility to let me know of any absences if possible. Students must take care of any absence in the office before the start of class.

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

A+ = 100 - 97%	A = 96 - 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%

Your semester grade (without the 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 true or false, multiple choice, short answer or essay formats.
- **Practice (Class Work) (30%)** - Anything else done to prepare you for your assessments.

Make-up Work: Excused absences will be allowed the standard make-up time as stated in the school handbook. Unexcused absences will be discussed. Classwork must be turned in on time. Late work will be marked as such and will not be accepted one week prior to a grading period.

Materials: I highly recommend that students have a folder and notebook specifically for this class alone. You WILL need them.

Retake Policy: There are no quiz retakes! That being said, there is a way to make up points by correcting the missed questions along with some short explanation for each question missed. Unit tests are summative and cannot be retaken. No work will be graded one week prior and one week after a grading term.

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. Now that we are a 1:1 school, there should be no need for a cellphone during instruction. If the cellphone becomes an issue it will be handed over. There should never be a cell phone used during an assessment.

Class Rules:

- This class will follow the stated school policies regarding tardiness, absences and disciplinary measures. Make sure you 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 to their peers.
- You must try everything. If you hate it so be it, at least you tried.
- I will most likely make you do something. If you have to do it you may as well do your best.
- Everyone has an opinion. Be respectful.
- I Trust You. Don't Break it. I also don't have problems in my class. We figure it out.

Tips for Success: Be prepared. Take notes. Participate. Be aware of current events. Formulate your own opinions and be prepared to own them.

Textbook:

History Alive! Pursuing American Ideals, Teachers Curriculum Institute, 2008.



COURSE OUTLINE:

1st Semester

1st Era: Establishing an American Republic
(1492-1896)

- Unit 1: Introduction to U.S. History
- Unit 2: American Revolution
- Unit 3: Civil War

2nd Era: Industrialism & Reform
(1884-1920)

- Unit 4: Industrialism
- Unit 5: Progressive Era

3rd Era: Expanding American Global Influence
(1796-1921)

- Unit 6: Imperialism
- Unit 7: World War I

4th Era: Roaring Twenties & Great Depression
(1920-1944)

- Unit 8: Roaring Twenties
- Unit 9: Great Depression

2nd Semester

5th Era: World War II & Cold War
(1917-1960)

- Unit 10: World War II
- Unit 11: Cold War

6th Era: Search for a Better Life
(1945-1990)

- Unit 12: Post War Years
- Unit 13: Civil Rights

7th Era: Tumultuous Times
(1954-1980)

- Unit 14: The Sixties
- Unit 15: Vietnam War
- Unit 16: The Seventies

8th Era: Making of Modern America
(1980-Present)

- Unit 17: The Eighties
- Unit 18: Modern U.S. History