

US History Syllabus

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Introduction

Welcome to US History! I hope you'll get a great deal out of this class and in the process that we'll have a lot of fun learning together. I expect a lot of enthusiasm, participation, and thinking from you. It's going to be hard, but it'll be really interesting!

Description

This class explores the events, trends, peoples, groups, cultures, ideas and institutions in North America and United States history. We will look at multiple perspectives of gender, class, and ethnicity, between the age of exploration to the present day. This class focuses on developing, practicing, and strengthening the skills historians use while constructing knowledge in the discipline. We will also work on note taking skills, which will help aid you throughout the rest of your high school and college careers.

Practical Matters

Due to the nature of the course and the vast amount of material involved students are expected to become learners both IN and OUT of the classroom. **Homework** will be assigned plus there will be Throwback Quizzes which will help students remember what had previously be covered in class; students will be informed in class and the information will also be posted on Canvas. The homework will be composed of different types of assignments, from primary source document analysis to reading and answering questions to preparing for in-class debates and projects.

The **atmosphere** is to be one of respect. This must be the case if we are to share our knowledge and ideas with others. But this means more than not interrupting others when they are speaking—it means listening attentively to others' thoughts and thinking carefully about their ideas. It means learning and using people's names. It means not sending the message that you have other things on your mind.

You will be assigned a spot in the cell phone holder. **Cell phones MUST be in the specified cell phone holder during the entire class (not seen or heard)** except when approved by the teacher, such as finding the answer to a question using a smart phone. Violation of this policy **WILL** result in confiscation! We will follow the discipline plan for Jefferson Academy; it's just common courtesy, you know.

Computers (BYOD) will be needed throughout the semester. You will be allowed to take notes on your computer, **HOWEVER** if you are caught not focusing in class (playing games or surfing, etc) this privilege will be taken away and you will have to take your notes by hand.

Assignments are to be completed on time and in detail. I am very good about updating my website with assignments and homework. Everything used or shown in class will be posted on Canvas for access. There is a calendar on Canvas as well to keep everyone aware on what's coming up due date-wise.

Late work will not be accepted. That being said, if you are in the need of more time and ask me **BEFORE** the due date, there are opportunities for extensions. If you come to me the day of or after the due date, the work will not be accepted.

For excused absences, you will have 2 days for every day you miss, and the clock starts when you come back to school. I keep everything accessible on Canvas, so there is no reason for you to not be prepared.

Academic honesty is of utmost importance. Cheating will not be tolerated. Plagiarism will result in a 0 on the assignment and a note in the gradebook. That said, I do believe in the adage that **two heads are better than one**. We will do a lot of group work; you will brainstorm, think, discuss, and complete tasks with other people. However, there are times when it is inappropriate to work with anyone else. It is fun to study with a group of people. On the other hand, tests and papers are individual activities. You **MUST** submit your **OWN ORIGINAL** work at all times, unless otherwise stated by the teacher. If you ever feel confused about if it is appropriate to work with other students, please ask before you begin.

Attendance is important. I adhere to the school's attendance and tardy policy as detailed in the Student/Parent Handbook. Exams, quizzes, and homework often include questions on material presented only in class, so performance on these indirectly reflects attendance. If you miss class, see Canvas. Don't ask me any questions about make-up work until you have looked at the lessons online **AND** asked another student. You should be prepared for class every day, so you are expected to be caught up from absences before walking into class.

Extra help is always available. If you need clarification or extra help, please ask for it! I will be in the Commons at my desk for you to drop by, and after school by appointment. I check my jajags.com email address until 8pm almost every night, so emailing me there if you cannot stop by is the best way to get your questions answered.

Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, we will also be using **Remind** to help us all communicate, and allow me, especially if we go 100% remote, to reach out to you all on a more instant basis. The Remind code is **@fabbhge**. Text that code to 81010 and you should be added to our US History class.

Materials you need for this class include loose-leaf paper, pens/pencils (any color is fine as long as it is dark enough to read), a handful of index cards, highlighters, a small stapler, and a binder/folder. This class is driven **HEAVILY** by lecture format and note taking. Please be prepared. My goal is to get you prepared for future college classes during this semester.

Due to COVID, please also have your own set of markers/colored pencils/crayons/something you can use for projects, and I would **HIGHLY** recommend your own bottle of hand sanitizer. Please make sure it's ethyl or isopropyl alcohol because the other stuff smells like stale alcohol.

Our **textbook** is *United States History and Geography*. We have digital licenses which you will be expected to sign up for and use throughout the semester. You will sign up at **<https://my.mheducation.com/login>**. You will need to create an account if you do not have one. Once you have logged in, you will need the redemption code to get access to the US History textbook. The redemption code is: **CF6P-M8C1-LJEO**

Expectations

Even though we will have students attending on different days, or only attending virtually, the expectations will be very similar, yet also tailored for the method of attending school.

In-Person students

- Always wear your mask while in the building

- Remain 6 feet away from other people at all times
- Pay attention to the material being presented
- Take copious notes, either in person or from the online work
- Keep up with the work when you're at home; there won't always be time in class to complete it
- Come prepared, having done work at home. We have very little time together in-person so I want to try not to waste any.
- Log into the weekly Zoom calls to ask questions and interact with the entire class
- ASK QUESTIONS (there is significantly less time in class than normal, so if you are even the little bit lost, please ask questions.)

Remote students

- Log in each and every day to make sure you're up to date on material and information
- Watch the lectures as many times as you need to make sure you have the information (you won't be able to ask questions immediately or get an immediate response most of the time)
- Take copious notes on the online lectures and work. It will help you remember the information
- Keep up with the work at home; as we all learned last year, there are LOTS of distractions at home
- Log into the weekly Zoom calls to ask questions and interact with the entire class
- ASK QUESTIONS (with being at home 100%, it is super important that you ask questions whenever you have them, because it's easy to get left behind). Email me ASAP or reach out through Remind.

There will be opportunities for both in-person and remote students to work together on projects, so you need to make sure that you keep up with the work every week.

I have some **pet peeves** and feel that you deserve heads up.

- First, if you must arrive late, come in as quietly as possible. Explanations and questions are appropriate later. Calling additional attention to yourself and wasting others' time is unacceptable.
- Do not interrupt and/or make a spectacle of yourself. Second, any interruption to my class, such as sharpening your pencil, stapling papers, making inappropriate comments, or not coming to class prepared, is inappropriate and will be dealt with by a connoption fit from your teacher. If you think I wouldn't approve, don't do it.
- Use furniture for appropriate purposes; **please do not sit on the desk tops.**
- Never use the phrase, "did I miss anything?" when you come back from an absence. It is offensive—of course you missed something. Instead, ask a specific question that demonstrates that you have already looked at the website and spoken with another student in the class.
- Finally, tapping, drumming, and any unnecessary noise drives me crazy. Believe me—you don't want a crazy teacher.

Topics and Themes

- **Ancient Americans and the Discovery of the New World**
- **Slavery**
- **Colonial Age and Revolution**
- **Presidents**

- **US Constitution and Bill of Rights**
- **Civil War**
- **Reconstruction**
- **Gilded Age**
- **WWI**
- **Depression**
- **WWII**
- **Cold War**
- **Fall of Communism**
- **9/11 and it's Aftermath**
 - **We will spend an average of 1 week on each topic.**

Grading Information

The **grade scale** is a basic ten-point scale.

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|---|---------------|
| A | 90-100% |
| B | 80-89% |
| C | 70-79% |
| D | 60-69% |
| F | 59% and below |

A: You put forth maximum effort on each and every task assigned, activity in class, project given, and overall had a positive attitude in class. Very high level of self advocacy.

B: You put forth good effort on each and every task assigned, activity in class, project given, and had a good attitude the majority of the time in class. Self advocacy is a priority for the student.

C: You put forth average effort on each task assigned, activity, project, and had a mostly positive attitude in class. Some attempt made to get extra help. Average level of self advocacy.

D: You put forth very little effort on each task assigned, activity, project, and had a somewhat negative attitude in class. Little effort put into getting extra help.

F: You put forth no effort on each task assigned, activity, project, and had a negative attitude in class. No effort to receive extra help either.

Classroom Activities and Homework: Students will be involved in numerous large and small learning activities, debates and discussions throughout the semester.
(20% of grade)

Writing: We will work on writing with specificity and analysis throughout the semester. Expect to write every 2-3 weeks. You will write 2 major papers during the semester on a topic that I assign. Each paper will be at least 4 full pages in length, double spaced using 12 point font and including works cited and a Works Cited page. All papers will be submitted to Canvas. **NO HARD COPY NEEDED.**

You will also write 3 film reviews during the semester. Each film review will be a minimum of 2 full typed pages, with evidence from the film and other sources found during the assignment.

There will also be many smaller, different types of writing assignments throughout the semester.

We will be using **TURNITIN.COM** to turn in papers this semester. The Class ID is **25335659**

and the Enrollment Key (Password) is **Garfield2020**. No paper will be graded if it is not turned into Turnitin.com by the due date. All papers will be submitted online only. **NO HARD COPIES.**

Writing Schedule

Papers: **September 11th, October 5th.**

Film Reviews: **September 25th, November 6th, December 4th.**
(30% of grade)

Tests: 5 tests will be given throughout the semester, covering a range of topics. Each test can consist of multiple choice questions, document based questions for you to analyze and essay questions to answer. If you miss a test, I will expect you to be ready to make it up within 2 days of the day you come back, otherwise it will go into the gradebook as a ZERO. I will allow you to do test corrections on **2** of the tests throughout the semester. Test corrections will involve you being able to prove to me that not only you learned the right answer, but also **WHY** it was the right answer. You must talk to me before or after school to get approved to do test corrections on a test. You will be able to earn up to **HALF** the points you missed on the multiple choice section, which will be added to your grade on the test. You will have 1 week after the test has been graded to complete your test corrections.

Test Schedule: **September 16th, October 7th, October 28th, November 18th, December 9th.**
(30% of grade)

Final Exam: The final exam will be given according to the Jefferson Academy Final exam schedule at the end of the semester. The final exam can consist of multiple choice questions and essay questions for you to answer over topics covered on the previous tests. The final exam will mostly cover topics since the last test but will include cumulative questions.
(10% of grade)

Discussion: There will be a multitude of discussion threads running at different times and including different topics throughout the course. The discussion threads allow the entire class to engage and interact with each other, regardless of the setting. These are going to be valuable to helping drive your learning of the material.
(10% of grade)

Helpful Hints

Writing: If you find that you are having trouble, spend about an hour and read the very short and helpful book, *Elements of Style*, at <http://www.bartleby.com/141/> This is a timeless classic that will help improve your writing immensely, and will help you with your writing throughout high school and college.

Have fun!!