



US History Course Syllabus

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| Simon Pollack spollack@bisd303.org Office Hours: By appointment and before school. | Class Resources My Staff Website TCI History Alive Login Instructions |
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Course Information

This course is designed to acquaint students with US history through the study of politics, culture, and economics. Students will explore various perspectives and experiences, evaluate actions of key decision makers, and come to understand the ways in which the past has informed the present. Throughout the year students will examine and address the following guiding questions during each unit of study:

- How has the past informed the present?
- How has America strived for justice throughout our nation’s history as evidenced in the struggle for 5 founding ideals (opportunity, democracy, equality, individual rights, and liberty)?

The purpose of this course is to get students thinking critically so that they become better informed and prepared to participate thoughtfully in their society.

Course Site

Assignments will be posted and submitted via Google Classroom. Students must enroll in our Google Classroom; if parents/guardians would like to receive Guardian Summaries, they can contact any one of their child’s teachers to sign up.

Learning Objectives

- Understand cause and effect relationships in American history and culture
- Evaluate multiple interpretations of events
- Effectively consult and analyze primary and secondary pieces
- Write an independent research based essay in the spring
- Expand research skills and develop the ability to evaluate the quality of sources
- Deepen discussion skills in both large and small group settings
- Explain how contemporary issues are informed by events in American history
- Think critically and thoughtfully about America’s 5 founding ideals
- Understand how events in American history were experienced from a variety of bottom up and top down perspectives

Learning Resources and Materials

- Students will use the *TCI History Alive! Pursuing American Ideals* text. This textbook is digital and can be accessed online through the TCI student sign-in page. A link to this site is available on Google Classroom under the Class Resources module and on the first page of this document.
- Selected primary and secondary resources
- Please bring the following materials to class every day:
 - Something to write with, like a pen or pencil.
 - Something to write on, that can be submitted, like lined paper.
 - **Charged** Chromebook

Course Overview

Unit 1: Establishing an American Republic

Unit 2: Westward Expansion

Unit 3: Civil War and Reconstruction

Unit 4: The American Dream

Unit 5: Challenges at Home and Abroad

Unit 6: Civil Rights Movements

Student Expectations

Attendance and Engagement

Unless they are ill, all students are expected to participate in all learning activities. If a student is unable to participate in these activities, they must make alternative arrangements with the teacher.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a compelling principle by which we operate all aspects of student and school life. Academic honesty is highly valued at BHS. Students should not cheat or plagiarize, nor should they tolerate such among fellow students. Students do not receive credit for work that is not their own. Cheating is defined as an attempt to earn credit or receive a grade for coursework in a manner other than defined as acceptable by the teacher. Plagiarism is the taking of language, ideas or thoughts from another person or resource without acknowledging the source. Students who use plagiarized papers or projects or are involved in any other form of cheating will be subject to reduction in grades and/or disciplinary action for a first offense. Because of the serious nature of academic honesty, violations of this code may result in loss of credit for the assignment with a recorded failing grade. It may also entail loss of credit for the course with a recorded failing grade, removal from the course with a failing grade, and/ or additional appropriate disciplinary action. (BISD Student Handbook)

AI Statement

- Representing AI-generated work as your own is considered cheating. Using Chat GPT or other AI composition software is not permitted when your own original work is called for.
- If you are unsure or have questions about whether a use of AI is permitted, you must contact your teacher before using it.
- If you use AI on an assignment, you must acknowledge that you did and explain how you used it, including the prompts you used, and cite it as appropriate.
- Students should understand that while generative AI is a powerful tool, it has important limitations. It may generate information that sounds good, but is inaccurate, biased or made up. It is the student's responsibility to cross-reference any information generated by AI with reliable sources.

Policies & Procedures

Grading

Students will be graded on assignments using a total points system.

Bainbridge High School reports grades at the end of each semester; progress reports are available for at the end of Term 1 and 3. Letter grades are calculated using the following grading scale:

| Grade | Mark | Description | High | Low |
|-------|------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| A | A | | 100.00 % | 93.00 % |
| A- | A- | | 92.99% | 90.00 % |
| B+ | B+ | | 89.99% | 87.00 % |
| B | B | | 86.99% | 83.00 % |
| B- | B- | | 82.99% | 80.00 % |
| C+ | C+ | | 79.99% | 77.00 % |
| C | C | | 76.99% | 73.00 % |
| C- | C- | | 72.99% | 70.00 % |
| D+ | D+ | | 69.99% | 67.00 % |
| D | D | | 66.99% | 60.00 % |
| F | F | | 59.99% | 0.00% |

Sensitive Materials

There are times in the course of Social Studies classes where sensitive materials will be shown to students. One of the goals of this course is to expose students to a variety of realities, perspectives and modes of expression. To the extent possible, students will be notified ahead of time about the content of such materials. These materials may include nudity (indigenous people, famous works of art, war), violence (war, social strife, protests, etc), extreme poverty, and controversial ideas, including profanity, or emotionally challenging subjects (including mental illness and domestic violence) . We encourage students to discuss individually with their teacher about what they find concerning; in extreme cases, alternative texts may be assigned.

Submitting Assignments

- Turning in work: All assignments will be turned in on Google Classroom or in hard copy form.
- Late Work:
 - Late work can be done for full credit and is accepted through the end of the unit for which it is assigned. However, assignments are intended to prepare you for in-class activities and assessments, therefore incomplete assignments may impact your overall grade.
 - We will NOT accept assignments via email or shared with me on Google Drive. All work should be turned in on the applicable Google Classroom assignment by the beginning of class.
 - Assessments given during absences must be made up no later than one week after the student's return from an extended absence, including a concussion. Otherwise, a missed test will be administered the next class period the student attends.

Technology

To fully participate in this course, you will need to have access to your BISD chromebook or a similar device.

Skyward vs. Google Classroom: Skyward is the final word. If there appears to be something incorrect with your gradebook, that's because it was a mistake. Don't be mad, just communicate.

Technology

To fully participate in this course, you will need to have access to your charged BISD chromebook, or a similar device, in class every day.

For tech support, please consult the Bainbridge High School library.

Parents/Guardians

Hello, Parents/Guardians!

In lieu of physically signing and returning this document, please complete the assignment *(H) American Studies Policies and Procedures on Google Classroom*. See instructions on Google Classroom.

We look forward to partnering with you this year!

Thanks,
Mr. Pollack