



# US History

## Course Syllabus 2021-2022

<b>Class Resources</b> <a href="#">My Staff Website</a> <a href="#">TCI History Alive Login Instructions</a> <a href="#">Google Classroom</a> - P.3 code	<b>Simon Pollack</b> spollack@bisd303.org  (206)855-0481  <b>Office Hours:</b> Held between 8:00-8:30 on Mondays and Thursdays.
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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:
  - 1" Binder w/ 1 pack of binder dividers
  - Notebook or binder paper
  - **Charged** Chromebook

\* Please DO NOT bring any supplies with latex due to severe allergies in the building.

## Course Overview

Unit 1: Establishing an American Republic

Unit 2: Western Expansion

Unit 3: Civil War and Reconstruction

Unit 4: American Essay Workshop

Unit 5: The Rise and Impact of Industry

Unit 6: Challenges at Home and Abroad

Unit 7: 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)

## Communications and Self-Advocacy

Good communication is essential to building good relationships with other students and with instructors. I promise to reach out to you to learn more about who you are and how you learn, and I hope that you will reach out to me to share your interests, ideas, and concerns. In order to accomplish the "nuts-and-bolts" communication of the class, I employ electronic means. I maintain informative websites and online grade records, and reply to emails during working hours. However, I highly value face-to-face interactions and believe it is the best way to communicate. If you have an issue or concern that is especially troubling to you, I suggest you make an appointment with me to talk about it.

## 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. If this is the case, 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 some written/video material with language considerations. At times in this course, rated R films may be shown. These films are always shown with a purpose to add to the learning goals of the course. It is your right to not view these materials if you are sensitive to them. You will be given different materials to incorporate the same information.

## 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.
  - I 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.
  - Assessments given during absences must be made up no later than one week after the student's return. It is the student's responsibility to set up a make-up time (if necessary) for missed assessments.
- Resubmissions: Students may resubmit work for any assignment or test in which they received a D or F grade (below 70%). Resubmissions need to be turned in no later than one week after the graded assignment or assessment was returned to the student with feedback on how to improve their grade.
- **Posting Late Work:** If a student turns in work after the assignment score has been posted to the Skyward Gradebook, that assignment will not be entered into the gradebook until the end of the unit. The end of the unit is the day the unit assessment is due, not the day you take the test.

**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 BISD chromebook or a similar device.

Phone Policy: As a BHS school community, we believe that promoting appropriate digital usage is essential to creating a positive learning environment in which all students can focus.

- Students, when you enter each class, please turn your cell phone off and place it in your backpack. Phones should remain away for the duration of class.
- If cell phones or laptops are used during class for a learning activity, you are expected to use the device ONLY for work related to that activity.
- Cell phones, cameras, or other devices should not be used to photograph or film others without their consent.
- Unauthorized use of electronic devices may result in confiscation and/or disciplinary action.

REMINDER: Per the Bainbridge High School (BHS) Electronic Use Agreement, BHS is not responsible for the theft, loss or damage of cell phones brought to campus.

## Parents/Guardians

**In lieu of physically signing and returning this document, please complete the assignment *US History Policies and Procedures on Google Classroom***

We look forward to partnering with you this year!

Best, US History Team