

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

HONORS US HISTORY II

Ms. Swigert

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description:

A more rigorous version of US History II that meets the same requirements, but focuses heavily on primary source reading, historical research, and written analysis. Applying research skills, while integrating the elements of the writing process, will be focused upon throughout the semester. The topics will be similar to those in US History II, but will be covered more in-depth and at a faster pace.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Compare and contrast political, social, and cultural changes from the 1950's through the 1980's.
- ✓ Study and interpret various historical documents from the 20th century (i.e. Truman Doctrine, speeches, etc.)
- ✓ Organize research and personal analysis of historical topics into well-written narratives.
- ✓ Critique movies depicting historical events from the 20th century for historical accuracies and inaccuracies.
- ✓ Identify the strengths and weaknesses of American leaders from the 20th century.
- ✓ Describe and explain efforts to end segregation in the U.S.
- ✓ Discuss U.S. involvement in Vietnam.
- ✓ Understand the global impact of 20th century events (i.e. assassinations, protests, Vietnam, Cold War)
- ✓ Compare and contrast the stances and decisions made by presidents and their administrations from the 20th century.

Required Class Materials:

- ✓ Book Binders
- ✓ Notes
- ✓ Pen or pencil
- ✓ Notebook Paper
- ✓ Student Tracker

Text:

Book Binders (collection of primary and secondary sources put together by instructor)

Supplemental readings provided by the instructor

Course Outline:

(Subject to change due to time constraints, class population, and individual preference)

- ✓ World War Two
- ✓ Post WWII (Peace Conferences)
- ✓ Korean War (and current issues in North Korea)
- ✓ Red Scare/Communism in America

- ✓ Postwar Anxiety (Rise of Suburbia & Rock-n-Roll)
- ✓ Civil Rights Movement
- ✓ Space Race
- ✓ Vietnam
- ✓ Protest & Counterculture
- ✓ Nixon & Watergate
- ✓ Ford, Carter, & Reagan Years
- ✓ Cold War Ends

Major Assignments:

- ✓ World War Two Research Paper
- ✓ 5 page analysis on the legacies of the Korean War & present-day North Korea
- ✓ 1 movie critique (independent)
- ✓ Vietnam Research Paper
- ✓ Protest Signs
- ✓ Reagan Paper
- ✓ Final Project (Research/Interview/Paper/Visual Aid)

Grading:

- ✓ Honors U.S. History II grades are based on an accumulation of points throughout the semester.
- ✓ The point value for assignments will vary.
- ✓ Grading Scale – as stated in the Handbook: 92-100 A, 85-91 B, 77-84 C, 70-76 D, below 70 F.
- ✓ The semester breakdown is that 85% of your final grade is your quarter grade and 15% of your final grade is your exam grade.
- ✓ Grades are updated at least once a week. Parents and students can monitor their grades via Skyward.

Class Policies & Procedures:

- ✓ It is up to the students to take care of any missing or late homework. The CHS late work and absent work policies (as stated in the Handbook) will be enforced. IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF LATE WORK AND ABSENT WORK.
- ✓ Pre-arranged absences can be tricky. Please be aware of the guidelines stated in the Handbook regarding pre-arranged absences, as they will be followed in this course. Unless it is an emergency situation, students are expected to turn in any work they will be missing AHEAD of time. If you have any questions about this policy, please feel free to contact me.
- ✓ If absent, you can email the teacher for a copy of the notes, to help prevent you from falling behind. The email to use if you are a student and have a question on homework, or need notes because you missed class, is swigertsclass@yahoo.com.
- ✓ The best way to alleviate any of these absence issues regarding homework and missing grades is to simply come to school!
- ✓ The class policies and procedures are best stated with three simple guidelines:
 - Please do not “pack up” when I am still teaching and/or other students are discussing. It is rude and distracting to all.
 - Please do not leave trash in the room (i.e. empty water bottles and gum wrappers).
 - Please be respectful to your classmates, your teacher, and yourself at all times.

Miscellaneous:

Honors U.S. History II is a required course for seniors. It is offered second semester only. The final projects take place of the final exam, so while there are senior exemptions, ALL students will be expected to complete the final project. This will be discussed more in-depth on the first day of class.

Instructor Contact:

- ✓ The best way to get a hold of me is through email (rswigert@cusd4.org) as I check it multiple times throughout the day.
- ✓ I am also available before school (7:45am – 8:05am) and during my prep periods (see below) by appointment or a phone call (815-694-2321).
 - Prep Period on A Days (1st semester): 9:50 – 11:15am
 - Prep Period on A Days (2nd semester): 8:15 – 9:45am
 - Prep Period on B Days (both semesters): 11:20am – 12:55pm