

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Honors US History

Ms. Swigert

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description:

A more rigorous version of US History 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 year. The topics will be similar to those in US History, but will be covered more in-depth and at a faster pace. An independent Illinois History project will be part of this year's course for all honors students. The Constitution requirement will also be done independently this year, with the test to be completed by September 16, 2011.

Course Objectives:

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

- Understand the reasons for the European colonization of the Americas
- Understand how the 13 colonies and Britain grew apart
- Analyze the causes and effects of the American Revolution as well as the role played by significant individuals during the conflict
- Understand the ins and outs of both our federal and state constitutions
- Recognize the causes and effects of the Second Great Awakening and understand various social and labor movements in our country's history
- Describe the causes and consequences of westward expansion
- Understand the military strategy, political struggle, outcome, and legacy of the Civil War and its major players
- Understand the political struggle, accomplishments, and failures of Reconstruction in the years following the Civil War
- Analyze the economic, social, and political effects of immigration and industrialization
- Analyze significant turn-of-the-20th century trends in areas such as technology, education, race relations, and mass culture
- Explain how the progressive movement affected the power of government and individuals
- Understand the causes and consequences of World War One
- Understand issues such as Prohibition, the changing role of women, and the influence of the Harlem Renaissance
- Analyze the Great Depression and FDR's New Deal
- Understand the causes and consequences of World War Two, with an emphasis on the Holocaust
- Study and interpret various historical documents
- Organize research and personal analysis of historical topics into well-written narratives.

Required Class Materials:

- Binder for notes
- Notebook Paper (preferably loose leaf)
- Pen or Pencil
- Student Tracker
- 2 pocket folder

Text:

Danzer, G.A., Klor de Alva, J.J., Krieger, L., Wilson, L. & Woloch N. (2005). The Americans. Evanston, IL: McDougal Littell.

Supplemental readings may be provided by instructor.

Course Outline: (subject to change due to time constraints)

- Ch 2 & 3 (Colonization)
- Introduction of Illinois History Project
- Ch. 4 & 5 (Test) (American Revolution)
- Constitution (Federal & State test – graduation requirement)
- Ch. 6, 7, & 8 (Test) (New Nation & Reforms)
- Ch. 9 & 10 (Westward Expansion & Slavery)
- Ch. 11 (Test) (Civil War)
- Ch. 12 & 13 (Reconstruction)
- Ch. 14 & 15 (Immigrants, Urbanization, & Industrialization)
- Ch. 16, 17, & 18 (Test) (Turn of the 20th century & Progressive Era)
- Ch. 19 (Test) (World War One)
- Ch. 20, 21, & 22 (Test) (Roaring Twenties & Great Depression)
- Ch. 23 (New Deal)
- Ch. 24 & 25 (Test) (World War Two)

Major Assignments: (Subject to change due to time constraints)

- Colonial Courtships
- Researching Signers of the Declaration of Independence
- Gettysburg Address Analysis
- Civil War Political Cartoons or Civil War Medicine
- Food, Drugs, & Muckrakers
- Imperialism Rally
- Points of View on WWI
- Feature Articles (writing your own)
- Sacco & Vanzetti Trial
- 1920's Slang Dictionary
- Decoding a Speech or Creating a Radio Broadcast
- Holocaust or Pearl Harbor Research Paper
- Letters home in WWII

Grading:

- 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.
- All tests in US History Honors will be a combination of objective and essay format
- 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 grades via Skywad.

Class Policies & Procedures:

- It is up to the student 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 ABSENT WORK AND LATE WORK.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:

- US History is a year long, required course for graduation.
- There is a positive correlation between attendance and performance. If you aim to do well in this course, you will need to be in class consistently.

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 (7:45 – 8:05am) and during my prep periods (see below) by appointment or 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