

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

US HISTORY II

Ms. Swigert

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Description:**

This course is a survey of the significant political, economic, social, cultural and diplomatic developments in American History from 1945 to the Present. Students will use primary and secondary source document analysis to address major themes, including the extension of Civil Rights in American society, U.S. expansion of Democracy and intervention in world affairs, globalization and the threat of Anti-American terrorism.

Note: This is a required course.

**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.
- ✓ Organize research and personal analysis of historical topics into well-written narratives.
- ✓ Critique movies depicting historical events from the 20<sup>th</sup> century for historical accuracies and inaccuracies.
- ✓ Identify the strengths and weaknesses of American leaders from the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- ✓ Describe and explain efforts to end segregation in the U.S.
- ✓ Discuss U.S. involvement in Vietnam.
- ✓ Understand the global impact of 20<sup>th</sup> century events (i.e. assassinations, protests, Vietnam, Cold War)
- ✓ Compare and contrast the stances and decisions made by presidents and their administrations from the 20<sup>th</sup> 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)

**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 propaganda
- ✓ North Korea paper
- ✓ Rock-n-Roll or 1960's Song Analysis
- ✓ Civil Rights Power Point
- ✓ Protest Signs
- ✓ 1980 Olympics Project
- ✓ American Decades Culture Projects

### **Grading:**

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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:**

U.S. History II is a required course for seniors. It is one semester only, so there is little room for error. The course focuses on events in and involving the U.S. from 1946 to the end of the Cold War.

**Instructor Contact:**

- ✓ The best way to get a hold of me is through email ([rswigert@cusd4.org](mailto: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 (1<sup>st</sup> semester): 9:50 – 11:15am
  - Prep Period on A Days (2<sup>nd</sup> semester): 8:15 – 9:40am
  - Prep Period on B Days (both semesters): 11:20 – 12:55pm