

# U.S. History

U.S. History is the second class in a series of three social science classes required for graduation. This term-long class will examine the major turning points that shaped the United States of today, from the birth of our country immediately following the Revolutionary War through the present, including the rise of industrialization, immigration, two world wars, the Cold War, The Civil Rights Movement, along with other social trend changes.

The primary objective is to develop critical thinking skills and prepare students for 12th grade and beyond. The class will focus on academic skills, writing, time management and inter-personal communication skills. Small and large group discussions are a part of classroom learning. All students are expected to participate in them. This course is writing intensive. Students will regularly practice their writing skills. In-class research essays, participation, tests and projects make up a majority of the overall grade.

The U.S. History class moves very quickly and covers a lot of material. Therefore, it is important not only that students keep pace with the course, but ask questions, and seek additional help when needed.

The course will be structured based on District approved themes which are:

- Formation of the United States
- Rise of Industrialization
- Immigration Patterns
- U.S. Expansion of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- Development of the U.S. as a world power
- World War I
- The Roaring 20's
- The Great Depression
- World War II
- The 1950's
- The Civil Rights Movement
- Vietnam
- The Cold War
- Contemporary Issues and Challenges

## **Course Textbook:**

*The Americans*. McDougal Littell Inc. 2003

## **In Class Work:**

In class work typically includes the following types of activities and assignments:

- Note-taking, lecture, discussions, cooperative learning opportunities, primary and secondary document analysis, in-class reading, presentations, films and documentaries, use of technology through PowerPoint and other multi-media presentations.

**Homework:**

Students in U.S. History can typically expect approximately 2-3 hours of homework per week on average and may include the following types of assignments.

- *Readings, study guide completion, reading-notes, and researching current events.*

Projects will be assigned which may necessitate extra time and may add 1-2 hours study time to an assignment. Projects may include the following types of assignments that will develop student reading, writing, speaking, presenting, and research skills.

- *Technology-based (including PowerPoint and multi-media presentations), research based (including the Junior Paper), and creative projects.*

**Tests:**

Each unit of study will include periodic quizzes based upon course subject matter. Common Core based/critical thinking final exams will be administered at the end of each quarter. Each final exam will consist of multiple choice questions based on analysis of primary source documents, political cartoons, charts, and graphs. As part of the final exams, students will also write an FRQ along with the first final exam and a DBQ as part of the second final exam. One final exam will be given at the end of each academic quarter. Both writing portions will be based on several common themes from one particular unit of study.