

American History – Reconstruction to the Present

2016-2017

Mr. Samek

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Course Summary

This course is devoted to understanding and interpreting United States history from Reconstruction of the South following the Civil War to our present time. The people we will discuss in this course responded to events within and outside of the Americas, including segregation, capitalism, imperialism, immigration, world wars, the growth of the federal government, the Cold War, Civil Rights, Women's Rights, and so on. We begin with a brief look at the American Civil War and its ramifications; the course ends (hopefully), with a look at where the American nation is today.

Expected Student Outcome

The student completing this course will have basic – or better – fluency in the major ideas and events that shaped United States history (in particular, twentieth century U.S. history), in the period approximately 1865 – 2016. For example, the student will better understand the following:

- The study of human experiences and important events
- Interactions of culture, race, and ideas, and the nature of prejudice
- Change and continuity in political systems
- Effects of technology
- Importance of global-international perspectives
- Integration of geography, economics, and civics studies on major developments in the history of Pennsylvania, the United States, and the world
- How America's past has shaped the present

Teaching Methodology

This course is a combination of teacher-centered activity and student-centered activity. The teacher will lead the students and “tell the story.” Students are expected to talk about what they have read and to discuss its implications, ramifications, merits, flaws, and so on. Small group activities

will be held throughout the semester, including debates. Short essays on assigned topics will be written and each student **may have** an individual project to complete; details to be announced.

Grading

Grades will be determined by the total number of points accumulated; this includes tests, quizzes, essays, a possible project score, and of course, on how well you are fulfilling your responsibilities to read, absorb, and discuss in class. Attendance matters here, so does the quality and quantity of your in-class participation. I will always reward effort. Late papers/projects will be penalized one letter grade *per day*, and any make-up tests or quizzes may be in all essay form. Quizzes will usually be given weekly; tests will be given at the end of each unit covered. Final grades will follow Hopewell's standard grading procedures. For example, 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, et cetera.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is not allowed. Good academic work must be based on honesty; students are expected to do their own work. In the academic community people earn their living through the use of their work, ideas, and words. Their reputation is built, in part, by others using their ideas and giving credit to the author. Students caught plagiarizing will earn no points whatsoever on that particular assignment. Furthermore, they may receive a failing grade for that nine week grading period.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Smartphones/cellphones must be turned off throughout the entire period. If, on occasion, they are to be used in class, I will advise you ahead of time. If you ask to use the restroom your phone must be placed face down upon your desk; you will not be allowed to take it with you to the restroom. If you fail to comply with these simple rules, I will collect all phones at the beginning of the period and students may retrieve their phones at the end of class.

Text

Joyce Appleby, Alan Brinkley, Albert S. Broussard, James M. McPherson, and Donald A. Ritchie, *The American Vision: Modern Times*, (USA: McGraw Hill Glencoe 2010).

Homework

Late homework will be worth a maximum of fifty percent of the normal assignment grade.

Rules of Conduct

The following is a brief list of rules that will be followed by all:

- Be in the classroom on time.
 - Bring what you need with you to class.
 - Participate. Remember, I reward effort!
 - If you eat or drink in class don't make a mess.
 - Only work on history in this classroom.
 - Phones are to be turned off and out of sight during class.
 - Act like a young adult and I will treat you like one.
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Tentative Curriculum

Intro & Review: Introductions – expectations and syllabus – pretest – current events – **brief review** of early American History

Unit 2: Reconstruction of the South – segregation – The West – growth of cities – immigration – labor – American industry

Unit 3: Imperialism – Progressive Movement – World War I

Unit 4: Roaring 20s – Great Depression – New Deal

Unit 5: World War II – Cold War – Korea – Postwar America

Unit 6: Civil Rights – Vietnam – Women's Rights Movement

Unit 7: Modern-day America – Terrorism – Divided nation

This syllabus is a guide to what will probably happen in our class as we go through the school year. It is subject to change at my discretion. However, I will give you plenty of advance notice of any changes. Any additional reading assignments will be provided at least one week in advance.