

United States History

COURSE SYLLABUS

Boca Ciega High School
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2020-2021
Room 1-072

COURSE PURPOSE: The purpose of the US History course is to introduce students to the systematic study of the social, political, and economic aspects that have shaped the course of American historic issues, decisions, and events from the cause of the American Civil War to the present day. Students will also learn how to interpret and analyze the various viewpoints of historical scholarship and apply what they learn to their everyday lives.

The course is organized around the basic themes and major periods of American History:

Semester 1:

- Geography review and Civil War Causes Review
- Civil war and Reconstruction
- Industrialization
- Imperialism
- World War I
- Modern America and the Roaring Twenties
- Great Depression and the New Deal

Semester II:

- World War II
- Post-War Era (Truman)
- 1950's (Eisenhower)
- Early 1960's (Kennedy)
- Vietnam Era/Civil Rights (Johnson)
- 1970's/Watergate (Nixon)
- End of 20th Century/ Beginning of 21st Century

Textbook: *The Americans: Reconstruction To The 21st Century: Florida Edition*

SUPPLIES

Each student will need the following items to be prepared for success in this course:

- ✓ **Binder** with tabs, dedicated for this class. (SCHOOL MANDATE)
- ✓ Spiral Notebook/Journal for Active Notebook.
- ✓ 1- pencil pouch or case (with PENCILS!)
- ✓ Pens (blue or black)
- ✓ Colored pens- (any color other than blue or black for correcting or editing)
- ✓ Fine tip markers or colored pencils

INSTRUCTIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS

In this course, we will use a variety of instructional methods, including lecture, multi-media, student presentations, peer review, collaborative group work, project-based learning activities, and group discussions. **My role is to make learning available for you, but you must take responsibility for your own success.**

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Essentials for Success:

- **Participate:** Come to class daily, participating actively in discussions and group activities, you WILL learn.
- **Come Prepared:** The most important part of success is being prepared and organized. Having the appropriate materials for class every day will build confidence in your ability to succeed.
- **Civility and Respect for Learning:** Please be on time—coming in late is disruptive to both me and your fellow students. Class is over when I am finished. Please don't close your notebook, zip up your backpack, etc. until we are completely finished. Please turn off/silence, and put away all cell phones and portable electronic devices (and take ear buds out of your ears), before class begins.

SCHOOL RULES

School board rules such as *no electronics in the class (OFF and OUT of SIGHT), the no tolerance tardy policy, the district dress code, and safe school policies* will be strictly enforced.

CELL PHONES/ELECTRONICS: I am completely, absolutely, and thoroughly **OVER** cell phones in the classroom! I will **no longer tolerate any use of phones or electronics in my class under any circumstances.** They are the death of education, an opiate for the incurious mind, the reason for the rapid increase in self-involved, shallow, narcissistic, and apathetic children; and a lazy escape from the rigors of contemplation, reflection, and the natural demands of enlightenment. I no longer have any patience for this cellular distraction in my class. But what I do have is a very particular set of skills. Skills I have acquired over a very long career. Skills that make me a nightmare for students like you. If you leave your phone off and away, that will be the end of it. I will not look for you, I will not pursue you. But if I ever see a cell phone being used in any way during my class, I will make a note of it, and after you leave class... I will look for you, I will find you, and I will write you a **referral**.

You have been warned...**OFF and OUT of SIGHT.**

CLASS RULES

- No charging your phones.
- Be in your seat, prepared with the proper tools, and ready to work **when the bell rings.**
- Treat your fellow classmates, teachers, and their personal property with respect.
- Communicate in positive ways- **foul language or insults will not be allowed.**
- Come each day committed to giving your best.

CLASSROOM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. Materials:** All students are expected to bring their **textbook**, binders, notebook paper, and pencil or pen to class each day unless otherwise instructed.
- B. Make-up Work and Attendance**
 1. Students are expected to attend class each day.
 2. **Excessive absences will make student success very difficult.**
 3. It is your responsibility to obtain the work that you missed on the day that you return. You have the number of days equal to the number of days absent to turn in the work. Any work assigned prior to your absence is due on the date you return.
- C. Tardiness:**
 1. It is extremely important to be in class on time.
 2. Excessive tardies will result in a call home.

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D. Assignments

1. **Homework is due at the beginning of class so do not plan on finishing it in class.**
2. Homework should be placed in the assigned class inbox at the beginning of class unless otherwise instructed. (Even if I do not ask for the homework, it is your responsibility to make sure it is turned in.)
3. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS (exceptions permitted on case by case basis) Otherwise, IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

E. Students should take pride in all assignments. **Assignments are graded for quality, not just completion.** Work should be completed in blue or black ink or pencil based on the assignment.

F. Quizzes and Tests

1. We will be using Focused Notes as an interactive part of your study. (SCHOOL MANDATE)
2. Vocabulary quizzes will be given as part of test preparation.
3. Unit/Chapter tests will be announced with at least two weeks' notice.
4. **You are required to make up tests/quizzes within one week after your absence.**
5. It must be done **AFTER** school, not in class.

G. Class Calendar

1. Tests will be given at the end of each chapter/unit.
2. Projects will be assigned throughout that time period and will be used as part of chapter/unit assessment.
3. A course calendar will be created and provided as more detailed time and pacing is determined.

Extra Credit: Extra Credit will be possible on **all** assignments based on the quality of the assignment; if it exceeds expectations, more points will be rewarded, if lower than expected, points will be reduced.

Final grades are calculated using Pinellas County requirements: 90-100% (A), 80-89% (B), 70-79% (C), 60-69% (D), below 60% (F). For example, a student earning 90-100% of all available points for a grading period will earn an A for that grading period.

FINAL EXAM - Students **must** take the **EOC** exam for the class at the end of the year, it will reflect 30% of your overall grade.

“Our Commitment to Each Other”

We agree to work together to be the best that we can. When we do not understand, we will ask. We will challenge ourselves and we will not give up. We take pride in what *we* will accomplish together... student, parents, teacher, Boca Ciega family.