

American History Syllabus
North St. Paul – Maplewood – Oakdale School District 622
John Glenn Middle School

Full Year Course

Standards met: MN Academic Standards in American History

Course Description:

The 7th grade United States History course is designed to teach United States history from post-Civil War times to present day. Topics to be covered throughout the year include: United States geography, westward expansion, the World Wars, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, industry, immigration, and economics. Students will use atlases, maps, charts, graphs, primary and secondary source documents to explore and learn about these topics. Students will also be working on their reading skills, critical thinking skills, vocabulary terms, graphing, gathering information, note taking, map skills, and group work. There is a required research project.

Curriculum: Essential Outcomes for ALL students completing this course:

1. Students will describe the westward expansion of the United States and its relationship with United States physical geography.
2. Students will describe and compare different perspectives on the causes, effects, and the aftermath (reconstruction) of the Civil War.
3. Students will recall major personalities who lived and events that occurred during the Civil War.
4. Students will describe major personalities who lived and events that occurred during the Industrial Revolution period.
5. Students will describe the causes and effects of World War I.
6. Students will compare and contrast the economics of communism and capitalism.
7. Students will describe the social changes and major personalities of the 1920s and 1930s.
8. Students will recall major personalities of lived and events that occurred during World War II.
9. Students will describe the causes and effects of World War II.
10. Students will describe America's emergence as a superpower and world leader in the period following World War II.
11. Students will investigate a topic in U.S. history and demonstrate the steps of the research process and communicate the findings in an effective manner.
12. Students will describe the political climate of the Cold War and trace its impact on different regions of the world through policies and events.
13. Students will recall major personalities who lived and events that occurred during the period of the Cold War.
14. Students will analyze the changes in law for individual rights during the 1960s, the movements that came before, and the how they impact us today.
15. Students will analyze challenges of a post-communist world, especially September 11, 2001 and its aftermath.
16. Students will develop and apply social studies skills which include the use of timelines, primary and secondary resources, concepts of historical context and multiple causation, and interpreting and creating maps.

Course Outline:

1st Trimester: The Constitution, United States Geography, Post Civil War, Westward Expansion

2nd Trimester: Progressive Era, Research Project, World Wars

3rd Trimester: Cold War, Korean War, Civil Rights, Vietnam, United States Today

Course Requirements:

Assignments are due on the due date. No late work will be accepted for full credit, unless a student was absent. If a student has any missing assignments in a given unit, then the student may come in early, work during lunch, or stay after school to get to the missing work turned in for partial credit. The purpose for this policy is to help students manage their time more effectively and not spend extra time trying to catch up. The only extra credit assignments I offer in the course are Reading Counts points. Students are required to read book and take test in their Language Arts classes. I will give the students a list of books for extra credit each trimester based on what we are covering in class.

Grading Procedures:

Grades are based on classwork, homework, quizzes, and tests. Students will have homework almost every night in this course.

Text and Other Resource Material:

Creating America, 1877 to the 21st Century, 2005, McDougal Littell.

Rand McNally Atlas

The Nystrom Atlas of United States History

Various movie clips and historical documentaries as appropriate to student learning

Contact Information:

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