



U.S. History Student Syllabus

Mrs. Bergt



STUDENT SYLLABUS:

Class Description:

This class is designed to help the student understand how past events have shaped, changed, and structured the United States to make it the country it is today and the Christian's place in it.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To grow in faith in Jesus Christ & see God's hand in the development of our nation.
- 2) See how past events have shaped the United States as we know it today.

Course Outline:

Unit 1: Horizons 1488-1748: (chapters 1,2,3,4)

~Study: Exploration of the New World, the original 13 colonies, colonial life, religion in the colonies...

Unit 2: Forge 1689-1801: (chapters 5,6,7,8)

~Study: American Revolution, Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, launching a new government...

Unit 3: Nation 1801-1859: (chapters 9,10,11,12)

~Study: The Jeffersonian Era, The Age of Jackson, Manifest Destiny...

Unit 4: Crisis 1848-1877: (chapters 13,14,15)

~Study: The U.S. Civil War, Reconstruction...

Unit 5: Quest 1877-1920: (chapters 16,17,18,19)

~Study: The Gilded Age, American expansion, The Progressive Era, World War I...

Unit 6: Leadership 1919-1945: (chapters 20,21,22)

~Study: The Roaring Twenties, the 30s, World War II...

Unit 7: Challenge 1945-2010: (chapters 23,24,25,26,27)

~Study: Postwar Era, Cold War, Korean War, atomic age, communism, as close as we can get to peace



Rules and Regulations:

- 1) All rules in the Family/Student Handbook will be followed during the school day.
- 2) Students will **ONLY** bring materials that pertain to this class, unless otherwise directed by the teacher.
- 3) **TEACHER PET PEEVE: Any student working on other subjects during class time may have it taken from them!** Whether or not the work is returned to them after class will depend on prior offenses. You need to be paying attention in class (this includes not sleeping)!
- 4) **TEACHER PET PEEVE: Any copying or cheating on homework, projects, papers, quizzes, or tests will NOT be tolerated!** Any cheating or copying will result in an immediate 0% on that work. You may HELP others find where answers can be found, but **DO NOT** give answers. Everyone should do his/her own work! There is also a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism (see Student Handbook).
- 5) If absent, you will have as many days as you were gone to make up any assignments, presentations, projects, or tests.
- 6) If you are absent on a day when an assignment is due, please turn it in on the day you return. You are responsible for turning in the work. I will **NOT** be chasing you down asking for it - that is your responsibility. If for some reason you were unable to complete the assignment, please speak with me when you return.
- 7) Students must be in the classroom before the second bell rings. If you are late because of a previous class, bring a pass. If you are worried about making it back to class in time after a bathroom break, check with me before you go. Any late entrances will result in a tardy.
- 8) Food and drink (except water) are **NOT** allowed in class (unless given specific permission by the teacher). **Unauthorized food in class will result in a detention. Do not** bring in the rest of your breakfast/lunch or be snacking on something from your locker as you walk into my class!

Consequences for Breaking Rules:

First offense: Warning

Second offense: Detention

Third offense: You don't want to get to this point!

Grading System:

The grading system that will be used in class will be the one that is in the student handbook. Extra credit opportunities **may** be available periodically throughout the year, which I will offer to the entire class. Take advantage of it as it is available. (I do **NOT** give extra credit when you have not been doing the work and suddenly need help before the end of the quarter.) During the course of the year grades will be determined by the following requirements:

Homework (40%)

- Projects
- Quizzes
- Class participation

Tests (60%)

- Research papers
- Projects
- Unit tests



Homework Requirements:

- 1) Students should keep all old tests, notes, worksheets, etc. throughout the course of the year. These will be valuable sources from which to study come finals time!
- 2) **TEACHER PET PEEVE:** All **homework must be turned in at the BEGINNING of class when it is asked for!** Any homework turned in after it is collected will receive a late grade of 50% off. In other words...do not try to finish an assignment quickly at the beginning of class and turn it in 10 minutes after class starts – it will still be counted late. No late work will be accepted after the end of the quarter during which it was assigned.
- 3) All homework, projects, etc. must be turned in on a clean piece of paper. I will not accept work written on the back of past assignments, notes, worksheets, handouts, etc.
- 4) Students will be required to take notes in a separate notebook/binder used only for U.S. History (or take notes on an electronic device, like a laptop). We will be taking a lot of notes in this class and test questions will come mainly from those notes. If you are absent you will need to copy the notes of someone you trust, or talk to me and I will give you a copy of my notes. **Do NOT** have someone take notes for you – it is hard for them to listen to the lecture while taking two sets of notes. You can copy your own notes later! Be considerate!
- 5) **Talk to me if there is an emergency situation and an assignment could not get done or a test studied for! I have no way of knowing the circumstances unless you communicate with me! Together we can decide what will be done.**
- 6) Class discussions are an important part of history class. Be ready to discuss views and opinions in class. This can be the most fun part of class if you make it that way!
- 7) If you have questions outside of class please feel free to see me before or after school, make an appointment to meet with me some other time, or call/text at home **(507-848-6863)**. I don't mind helping you – it's my job! 📞

Why Study History:

- 1) History helps students be better citizens by enabling them to understand what causes what in society.
- 2) History helps students become critical thinkers by learning *the study of the writing of history* (historiography).
 - Helps develop organizational skills & research skills.
- 3) History is power.
 - Students who do not know their own history or how to think critically about historical assertions will be ignorant and helpless before someone who does claim to know it.
- 4) History helps students become less *ethnocentric* (belief that one's own culture is the best & other societies/cultures should model ours).
 - An ethnocentric person finds it hard to learn from another culture already knowing it to be inferior.
- 5) History contributes to moral understanding.
 - History teaches by example. It gives us heroes – great men and women, but also ordinary people, who provide lessons in courage.
- 6) Declares God's glory.
 - The Bible makes extensive use of history. We can see God's hand throughout history.