

Department: History

Course Name: United States History

Course Description:

This course examines the political, social, cultural, and diplomatic history of the United States from European settlement to the present. Students refine their skills in reading and interpreting historical writings, both primary and secondary sources. They also further develop their ability to express their ideas, both in class discussion and in writing. Students may use this course to fulfill their curricular requirement for United States history.

Content:

The course is organized around four themes, each of which is emphasized during one quarter of the academic year.

Foundations: This theme deals mainly with the founding, organization, and development of systems of government, beginning in colonial times and continuing to the turn of the 21st century.

Foreign Relations: This theme includes the relationships between the United States and other nations--in times of peace and conflict--from the 1700s until the turn of the 21st century.

Culture: This theme covers a wide range of American cultural expressions, from colonial times to the turn of the 21st century. These expressions include art, literature, music, architecture, theater, movies, television, and more.

Diversity: This theme focuses on the relationships between different groups of Americans, and addresses issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and other factors from colonial times to the turn of the 21st century.

Skills:

Interpret and understand historical events

Identify and understand major themes in United States history

Present information accurately and argue positions persuasively in class discussion

Evaluate historical evidence and use it to advance and defend hypotheses

Present ideas and the evidence to support them clearly and persuasively in essay format

Recognize cause and effect relationships in history

Analyze primary and secondary sources

Text and Materials:

Various secondary materials; available online

Various primary sources

Various electronic instructional platforms: Google Drive, Formative, Flipgrid, Nearpod

Methods of Instruction:

Discussion

Lecture

Simulation

Investigation in small groups, using traditional and electronic resources

Primary source analysis

Methods of Evaluation:

Quizzes and tests: objective questions

Short answer responses

Essays
Primary source analysis
Group assignments
Research projects
Class presentations
Shorter daily assignments

