**U.S. History Syllabus**

**Teacher Info**

Teacher Name

Teacher email

Teacher phone number

Room

**Class Website**

Phs-ushistory.weebly.com

**Google Classroom**

TBD

**Office Hours**

Before or after school by appointment

**Course Description**

Students in grade eleven study the major political, social, economic, technological, and cultural developments of the Colonial Era to Present Day in the United States. In this course, we will be using primary and secondary sources to explore the history of the United States and work on applying the critical thinking skills needed to study and understand the country we live in and the rights we have as US citizens. Our course will be a balance between content and historical reading and writing skills. The year will be broken into four overarching units (one per quarter) where we will explore how America has evolved into the country it is today and how our rights have adapted to these evolutions.

**Textbook**

*The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century,* Danzer, Gerald A. *The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century.* Evanston, IL: McDougal Littell, 2005. - This should be left at home as an additional resource – I have a class set in the room

**Required Materials**

* Students are required to bring a 3 ring binder to class daily. The binder should be solely for the purpose of this class and should not contain any outside work.
* At least 1 pen or pencil (prefer that you have multiple colors for notes)
* Lined paper should be accessible if needed in class

**Grading Per Semester**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sem. 1** | **Participation** | **Content** | **Opps.** | **P. Task** | **Skill** |
| **Qtr. 1** | **10%** | **10%** | **0%** | **10%** | **20%** |
| **Qtr. 2** | **10%** | **10%** | **0%** | **10%** | **20%** |

Letter grades for this course will be based on total points earned per semester. Quarter grades are not averaged together.

**Standards Based Grading Scale: 4 point scale**

**A+ 4.00-3.75 A 3.74-3.26 A- 3.25-3.00**

**B+ 2.99-2.84 B 2.83-2.67 B- 2.66-2.50**

**C+ 2.49-2.34 C 2.33-2.17 C- 2.16-2.00**

**D+ 1.99-1.79 D 1.75-1.26 D- 1.25-1.00**

**F 0.99 and below**

**Percentages**

**A+ 100 – 97% A 96 – 93% A- 92 – 90%**

**B+ 89 – 87% B 86 – 83% B- 82 – 80%**

**C+ 79 – 77% C 76 – 73% C- 72– 70%**

**D+ 69 – 67% D 66 – 63% D- 62 – 60%**

**F <60%**

**Common Core Literacy Skills in History**

The study of History requires strong reading, writing, speaking, and thinking skills, therefore, this class is not just focused on the memorization of facts. Instead, we spend much of our time learning and practicing the literacy skills necessary at being a successful student of History as well as successful in any subject area. We have built a curriculum that is both content rich, using the CA State History Framework, as well as the Common Core Literacy (Reading, Writing, and Speaking) Standards.

**Standards Based Grading System**

Students will be graded with a system that is commonly referred to as “Standards Based Grading.” Their assignments will be graded based off a 4 point scale rubric. This system allows the students to better determine their growth towards proficiency over time. This is the same system of grading used by the English department, but if you have questions please ask your teacher.

**Performance Tasks**

These assessments allow students to show mastery of selected standards throughout the year. These performance tasks will be project based, and the students will have most of the quarter to work on these tasks in class. They will be aimed at providing students with an opportunity to not only show mastery of the skill, but to also create a connections between the topics we discuss in class and the world today.

**Opportunities**

Opportunities will be done in class during each unit. These are meant to measure student learning throughout each unit. They will usually be based on the steps needed to complete the performance task. Opportunities can consist of in class projects, writing assignments, or readings. Most units will consist of three opportunities that must be attempted before the performance task. If a student needs additional opportunities or needs to redo an opportunity they can make them up during teacher office hours or Mastery Center. A student must show mastery in opportunities before attempting to make up a Performance Task.

**Content Assignments/Grade**

The content portion of the grade will be made up of content assignments, quizzes, and pass/fail mastery tests, as well as accurate use of content in opportunities and the performance tasks.

**Participation Grade**

Students will also receive a proficiency scale for their participation grade. This grade will be based on the completion of assignments in a neat and timely manner, attendance, behavior, and classroom participation.

**Absences/Tardies**

Assignments will be available online on the class website, but it is your responsibility to get missed work on your own time, not during class. Both tardies and unexcused absences have a negative impact on your participation grade.

**Discipline Policy**

The student’s education is the purpose of their being in the classroom. Classroom discipline enforces this purpose. Students who violate classroom rules take learning opportunities away from other students. Generally students who violate class rules will be given a warning and will have class participation points taken away for the first offense. Repeated offenses can result in a phone call to a parent or guardian and/or referral to the office. There are things that will result in the student being sent from the room for one to two days without any previous issues that day. For instance I have a zero tolerance policy for students using terms that are derogatory towards identifiable groups of people, cheating, stealing, lying, or fighting – These are non-negotiable!

**Classroom Policies/Procedures**

1. There are four basic classroom rules that must be followed:
   1. **Respect**- students must act respectfully towards others in the class at all times. This includes respecting each other’s property.
   2. **Integrity**- student’s work must be their own, not copied for other students, from the textbook, or from other sources, without being quoted. Additionally, students need to be truthful.
   3. **Accomplish**- students are here to learn, therefore they must accomplish the tasks set for them. People are measured by what they do.
   4. **Safety**- Students must act safely at all times. This includes their behavior towards others.
2. Students are expected to be seated in their seat, ready to work when the bell rings. If they are not, they will be counted as tardy unless they have a signed pass.
3. Seating will be assigned and will be changed as needed.
4. Eating is not allowed in class; however you may bring drinks to class.
5. No cell phones, Ipads, Ipods, etc are allowed in class unless teacher permits use for research. This includes charging devices. If a student is using them during class time, it will be confiscated. This is a school policy. Unauthorized electronic device use in class results in a loss of participation points.
6. Opportunities will be graded ASAP in order to provide students with the opportunity to redo these assignments for more practice, or to use them to prepare for the performance task

**RETURN TO TEACHER**

I have read the syllabus and understand what is expected of my student

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Date)

Parent Signature

I have read and understand what is expected of me.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Per)

Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Student Name

**Movie Permission Slip**   
  
Our school requires parental permission for your student to view movies that are used in our curriculum, or that are selected by the teachers, which have been rated PG-13 or R.   
  
I believe showing your son or daughter excerpts from movies such as *Glory, Lincoln, Gangs of New York, The Newsies, The Lost Battalion, Cinderella Man, Goodnight, and Good Luck, Pleasantville, Iron Jawed Angels, Trumbo, We Were Soldiers, Across the Universe, Selma, The Kingdom, Sicko, Capitalism: A Love Story, Food, Inc., and Wall-E* enables them to benefit from another medium as a resource in their study of current events and history. Over the course of the school year, I will be utilizing these movies in the classroom while we study the different events and cultural shifts throughout history.  
  
Movies, along with hands-on activities such as reading, in-class discussion groups, and research projects, give students a well-rounded opportunity to discover the world of history. Movies go beyond dry facts and help bring events “alive.”   
  
Be assured that I will use proper discretion when showing excerpts of movies. Thank you for taking the time to read and sign this permission form.   
  
Sincerely,

U.S. History Department

Name of Movie/Rating: *Glory* (R), *Lincoln* (PG-13), *Gangs of New York (R), The Newsies (PG), The Lost Battalion (PG-13), Inherit the Wind (PG-13), Cinderella Man (PG-13), Good night, and Good Luck (PG), Trumbo (R), Pleasantville (PG-13), Iron Jawed Angels (PG-13), We Were Soldiers (R), Forest Gump (PG-13), The Butler (PG-13), Across the Universe (PG-13), Selma (PG-13), The Kingdom (R), Sicko (PG-13), Capitalism: A Love Story (PG-13), Food, Inc. (PG-13), and Wall-E (G)HaH*

Student Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
  
\_\_\_\_ Yes, I give my son/daughter permission to view curriculum and school appropriate excerpts of movies rated PG-13 or R.   
  
\_\_\_\_ No, I do not give my son/daughter permission to view curriculum and school appropriate excerpts of the types of movies mentioned in this letter. I understand alternate learning experiences will be provided for my child while the movie is being watched.   
    
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent Signature)