

United States History – Course Expectations

Wheeler High School, Mrs. Shannon Curioso

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United States History Course Description

Full Year – 1 Credit

This **State of Connecticut required course** focuses on the economic, social, and political development of the U.S. in the twentieth century and the effects these themes caused at home and abroad. Students will be expected to conduct in depth independent research, analyze key topics and apply learned concepts to present-day events.

Units of Study:

- Imperialism and Progressivism (1890 – 1920)
- Boom and Bust (1920 – 1941)
- Global Struggles (1941 – 1960)
- A Time of Upheaval (1954 – 1980)
- A Changing Society (1968 – Present)

Essential Question for the course: *How has the United States changed over time?*

More specifically:

- How have changes in markets, transportation, and technology affected American society?
- How have changes in migration and population patterns affected American life?
- How have various groups sought to change government's role in American political, social, and economic life?
- How has U.S. involvement in global conflicts set the stage for domestic social changes?
- How have changes in moral, philosophical, and cultural values affected United States history?

Course Materials

- Textbook – *The American Vision (2008)*. The specific textbook that is signed out to you may be stored at home for your convenience; there are plenty of copies in the classroom.
- Relevant supplemental readings and handouts will be assigned throughout the semester. I expect you to keep any materials that you are given in your class binder or folder for the tenure of the class.

It is your responsibility to bring a **2-3 inch binder, folder and writing utensil** (pen or pencil) to class daily.

Please keep in mind that there will be graded binder checks throughout the year... your materials should be organized in a logical manner including sections such as homework, handouts, tests, etc.

Course Organization

Class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and group work. In addition to homework, written responses, and announced tests and quizzes, there will also be unannounced reading quizzes, essays, research projects, graded discussions, and presentations.

Assignments and articles of interest will frequently be posted on Twitter/IG @MrsCurioso and on PowerSchool.

Grading

Assignments will be graded through a points system, as follows: Homework – 10 points each assignment, Quizzes – 50 points each, Tests/Projects/Essays – 100 points each.

*Any additions or modifications to the points system will be identified on the specific assignment.

Grades will be updated weekly on PowerSchool. Keep in mind that I rarely offer “extra credit” assignments. *[Please see WHS’s policy regarding Academic Integrity on pages 21 - 22 in the Student Handbook.]*

Late Work Policy

All assignments are due in class on the assigned due date. Late work can be handed in for half credit no more than 2 days after the due date. After two days, late work will not be accepted. There will be no exceptions to this rule except in genuine emergencies.

Essays and Projects are penalized 10% every day that they are late.

Absences

If you miss class for any reason (illness, fieldtrip, etc.), it is your responsibility to find out what you missed in class. If you know in advance that you are going to miss class, you should talk to me before your absence to help ensure a smoother return to class.

Missed work due to an absence must be completed within a responsible amount of time upon your return to school. It is your responsibility to schedule make-up work. If missed work is not completed within a responsible amount of time, you will receive a zero for the assignment. Make up assessments such as tests and quizzes may be in a different format from the original assessment to protect the integrity of the assessment. When you schedule to make up the assignment, I will alert you to any changes in format. Additionally, because some class assignments are impossible to replicate, they will be altered so that you can receive a grade for the assignment.

Attendance/Tardy Policy

Please arrive to class prepared and on time. I will follow the tardy/attendance policy explained in the Student Handbook on pages 12 - 15.

Extra Help

Extra help is available before and after school, and during break. These appointments should be scheduled ahead of time. Students may also seek extra help through email.

Class Participation

I strongly encourage you to participate positively in class, discussions and activities, as participation will enhance your interest and understanding of the course material. You must come to class with a curious, open, thoughtful and conscious mind. Inappropriate or derogatory behavior or comments will not be tolerated. You may not agree with everything you read or hear, but part of learning is to gather a diverse array of information, analyze your findings, draw your own conclusions, and then to express those conclusions in an appropriate manner. Everyone

should feel comfortable sharing ideas and stories appropriate to class.

“Civility is not something that automatically happens.
Civil societies come about because people want them to.”
- Jimmy Bise Jr

“Civility means a great deal more than just being nice to one another. It is complex and encompasses learning how to connect successfully and live well with others, developing thoughtfulness, and fostering effective self-expression and communication. Civility includes courtesy, politeness, mutual respect, fairness, good manners, as well as a matter of good health.” – Pier Massimo Forni

Classroom Guidelines

The following are some general expectations I have for the class:

-- Be respectful of each other, of me, and of classroom property. Comments, ideas, opinions and questions are welcomed and encouraged; just make sure that they are appropriate. *[See the Bullying policy on pages 39 - 45 in the Student Handbook]*

-- Please keep your cell phones off and away at all times unless I tell you otherwise. If I see or hear a cell phone in my classroom, I will confiscate it for the day. *[See the Bring Your Own Device policy on pages 24 - 26 in the Student Handbook]*

Wheeler High School Academic Expectations: *analysis*, literacy, communication and collaboration

The following Common Core State Standards will be addressed throughout the course:

9th grade Literacy in History/Social Studies - CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.1-10:

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RH/9-10/>

9th grade English Language Arts Writing Standards - CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.9-10.1-10

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/9-10/>

Students and parents, please complete the appropriate sections below.
Students should return the signed portion to Mrs. Curioso by _____.

STUDENTS:

I acknowledge my reading of the course syllabus and the demands, responsibilities and consequences for the United States History course. I am aware that extra help is available by appointment.

Student Name (print)	
Student Signature	
Student Email	

PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

I acknowledge my reading of the course syllabus and the demands, responsibilities and consequences for the United States History course. I am aware that extra help is available by appointment.

An additional note:

This year in United States history you child will be examining America's defining moments and events during the 20th century. In order to better express and illustrate the many facets of American history during this time period, the class will be exposed to a variety of materials, including news articles, book excerpts, documentaries and film. Some of these materials may contain adult content such as language and/or violence (examples: *Cinderella Man*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Dear America: Letters Home From Vietnam*, *Forrest Gump*). Please check the appropriate below to indicate whether or not you approve of your child studying these materials in class. If you do not give your child permission, alternate assignments will be provided for them during the study of such materials. If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to contact me, 860-535-0377.

I do ___ do not ___ give my child permission to view materials deemed appropriate for the classroom by Mrs. Curioso.

Parent/Guardian Name (print)	
Parent/Guardian Signature	
Parent/Guardian Email	

