

American History II

Syllabus: American History II

Mr. Murphy, Room 29, Dallastown Area High School

Email: Rodger.murphy@dallastown.net

Main text for this course: Cayton, Perry, Reed, and Winkler; *American Pathways to the Present, Modern American History*; Pearson Prentice Hall - Pearson Education Inc. 2005

Course Content

U.S. History II is a required course for 11th grade students. This course explores the social, economic, political and current issues of U.S. History from World War II to the present.

This course introduces main themes in the history of the United States from World War II to the present. Not only will we be studying the actions of presidents and important people, but we will also look at how common people lived and acted. We will compare the different experiences of various ethnic, religious, and racial groups, social classes, and women. An intent of this course is to introduce the concepts, materials, and tools employed in the discipline of history, and to help develop writing and other skills used in the study of history. By the end of the course you should have developed your ability to think clearly and critically, to ask and research significant questions, to read historical materials intelligently, and to express your ideas in a logical, concise manner.

Note: This is a required course.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss key events that contributed to the development of World War II
- Discuss U.S. participation in World War II.
- Compare and contrast political, social, and cultural changes from the 1950's through the 1980's.
- Organize research and personal analysis of historical topics into well-written narratives.
- Critique movies depicting historical events from the 20th century for historical accuracies and inaccuracies.
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of American leaders from the 20th century.
- Describe and explain efforts to end segregation in the U.S.
- Discuss U.S. involvement in Vietnam.
- Understand the global impact of 20th century events (i.e. assassinations, protests, Vietnam, Cold War)
- Compare and contrast the stances and decisions made by presidents and their administrations from the 20th century.

Required Class Materials:

- Notebook
- Notes
- Pen or pencil
- Notebook Paper
- Highlighter

Grading Policy

Students' grades will be based on successful completion of assignments, presentation of individual and small group projects to the class, and students' scores on quizzes and tests. Classroom participation is will also be evaluated each marking period and is vital to student success.

Marking period grades will be based on the percentage of total possible points a student has earned by the end of the semester for assignments, projects, quizzes, tests and participation in class activities as follows:

A= 90% to 100%

B= 80% to 89%

C=70% to 79%

D= 60% to 69%

E= 59% or less

Class Policies & Procedures:

- It is up to the students to take care of any missing or late homework. The DHS late work and absent work policies (as stated in the Handbook) will be enforced. **IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF LATE WORK AND ABSENT WORK.**
- Pre-arranged absences can be tricky. Please be aware of the guidelines stated in the Handbook regarding prearranged absences, as they will be followed in this course. Unless it is an emergency situation, students are expected to turn in any work they will be missing **AHEAD** of time. If you have any questions about this policy, please feel free to contact me.
- The best way to alleviate any of these absence issues regarding homework and missing grades is to simply come to school!
- The class policies and procedures are best stated with three simple guidelines:
 - Please do not "pack up" when I am still teaching and/or other students are discussing. It is rude and distracting to all.
 - Please do not leave trash in the room (i.e. empty water bottles and gum wrappers).
 - Please be respectful to your classmates, your teacher, and yourself at all times.

The Following key objectives exist for all students as we progress through the course:

The student will demonstrate skills for historical and geographical analysis, including the ability to

- a) identify, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary source documents, records, and data, including artifacts, diaries, letters, photographs, journals, newspapers, historical accounts, and art to increase understanding of events and life in the United States;
- b) evaluate the authenticity, authority, and credibility of sources;
- d) develop perspectives of time and place, including the construction of **maps** and various time lines of events, periods, and personalities in American history;
- g) apply **geographic** skills and reference sources to understand how relationships between humans and their environment have changed over time;
- h) interpret the significance of excerpts from famous speeches and other documents.

American History II

Mr. R. Murphy

2010-2011

Course Outline

Unit One

World War II, 1931 - 1945

Ch. 17 World War II: The Road to War, 1931 - 1941

Ch. 18 World War II: Americans at War, 1941 - 1945

Unit Two

The Post War Era, 1945 - 1960

Ch. 19 The Cold War, 1945 - 1960

Ch. 20 The Postwar Years at Home, 1945 - 1960

Unit Three

The Civil Rights Movement and Activism

Ch. 21 The Civil Rights Movement, 1950 - 1968

Ch. 22 The Kennedy and Johnson Years, 1961 - 1969

Ch. 23 An Era of Activism, 1960 - 1975

Midterm Exam

Unit Four

The Vietnam Era, 1954 - 1975

Ch. 24 The Vietnam War, 1954 - 1975

Unit Five

The Nixon, Ford and Carter Years, 1969 - 1981

Ch. 25 Nixon, Ford, Carter, 1969 - 1981

Unit Six

The Conservative Revolution, 1980 - 1992

Ch. 26 The Conservative Revolution, 1980 - 1992

Unit Seven

The Modern Era, 1992 – present

Ch 27 Entering a New Era, 1992 to the Present

Final Exam

Final Exam will evaluate concepts taught/learned after the midterm exam only.

American History II

Mr. Murphy

2008-2009

Homework

Homework assignments will account for approximately 20% of your grade each marking period. The amount of work assigned, to be completed, outside of the classroom will vary throughout the year. The difficulty of the assignments will vary as well. For a student to perform at a high level in this class, it is imperative that the assignments be completed on time. **Late work will not be accepted.** All homework that was missed due to an excused absence must be completed within one day of your return to school.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be both announced and unannounced. They may be based upon material we have covered during class or based upon reading assignments. Quizzes will usually be given two or three times/chapter of instruction. If a quiz is missed due to an absence you will have only three school days to make up the missed work. If the student was not absent from school on the day of the quiz (field trip, athletic contest, etc.) the student would be expected to take the quiz the next school day. Quizzes may be valued between 10 and 35 points.

Tests

For each chapter that we cover there will be a chapter test. These tests will include a variety of questioning techniques. There will be multiple choice, matching, identification, completion, ordering, short answer and essay questions. The policies which apply to the make up of missed quizzes will also apply to tests. It should also be noted that if a student absence is unexcused the instructor need not permit the test to be made up. Tests will always be announced a minimum of three days in advance of the test. In some cases there will be a formal review, but not always. Test will be valued between 70 – 110 points. Students will have a maximum of one class period to complete a test unless something different has been specified on a student IEP.

Projects

Each student will be assigned a variety of projects throughout the year. The assignments are not course requirements but will be weighted in such a way that it will be a real killer if you do not complete them. Each student will be assigned a research project. The due dates will vary throughout the year but will always be worth 25% of that marking period grade. Each Student will be required to complete one major research project during the year.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be made available periodically. Don't call me I'll call you. End of story!