



**Phone:** 713 688-1361

**Website:** [www.houstonisd.org/waltrip](http://www.houstonisd.org/waltrip)

## **US History 1877—Present**

Course Syllabus 2020 - 2021

**Instructor:** James Cherry

**Email** james.cherry@houstonisd.org

**Room:** 1133

**On-line Tutorials:** Office Hours Monday 3:25pm – 4:10pm, Tuesday – Friday 1:50pm – 2:35pm

**Conference Period:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> period

### **COURSE OBJECTIVE:**

US History 1877 to Present is a required course for juniors. It is a survey of American political, economic, and cultural trends from 1877 to the present. Emphasis is given to major historical trends such as: industrialization, progressive political movements, growth of economic influence, social and cultural development, and America's role in a global setting. The course strives to help students develop critical thinking skills through the analysis of challenges faced by the U.S. in both foreign and domestic policies. Students also develop research and writing skills through periodic research projects.

By the end of this course, students will be able to examine the impact of constitutional issues on American society, evaluate the dynamic relationship of the three branches of the federal government, and analyze efforts to expand the democratic process. Students will also appreciate the basic democratic values of our state and nation. Students also understand that a constitutional republic is a representative form of government whose representatives derive their authority from the consent of the governed, serve for an established tenure, and are sworn to uphold the constitution.

### **COURSE EXPECTATIONS:**

In order to achieve our goal of mastering the essential knowledge and skills of this course, students in this course are expected to be present, be prompt, be prepared, be polite, and be productive. Each student will be held accountable for class work, homework and tests.

### **About the Teacher:**

I am originally from Fayetteville, AR and I moved to Houston, TX four years ago. I graduated from Harding University with a BA in Business, minor in History, and from John Brown University with an MBA. I attended Texas A&M for ACP training/certification as a teacher. Prior to teaching, I was a hazardous materials safety compliance manager and safety instructor at a major transportation company. I enjoy reading, visiting historical places, music, gardening, cooking and walking my puppy (Jackie, an eight-month-old American Brittany).

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

Students are expected to come to class prepared and with the required materials. Failure to do so will result in wasted class time, slower learning, and possible disciplinary action. Please have the following items with you every day. (Certain items may be kept in the classroom.) In addition to the following list of supplies, students are expected to carry their PowerUp computer with them--at all times—and an outside reading book that can be checked out in the school library or on their PowerUp computer.

- 2” binder
- Notebook paper
- Blue or Black Ink Pens and Pencils
- Multicolored Highlighters

### **HOMEWORK REQUIREMENTS:**

Homework will be regularly assigned. Consistent failure to complete homework assignments will result in slower learning, below level mastery of objectives, poor grades and parent/teacher/student conferences.

### **GRADING SCALE:**

- Test/Performance Assessment = 35%
- Class Work = 30%
- Quizzes = 20%
- Homework = 15%

### **ABSENCE AND MAKE-UP LEARNING POLICY:**

If you are absent, you are required to make up the **learning** that you miss. There is no way to recover the time lost when a student is not class. In an effort to keep your learning on track when returning from an absence, I may require one or both of the following: time in my classroom after school, work/reading to be done at home. These measures are the sole responsibility of the students to initiate and must be completed within one week of the absence(s).

### **LATE WORK:**

Assignments are late if they are not turned at the time requested. Grade penalties and the amount of time allowed to complete the assignment are as follows:

**Late Work related to an absence:**

3 days to turn in the assignment                      no points deducted      full credit eligible

**Late Work NOT related to an absence: Business Days**

1 day late	-10 points	max 90
2 days late	-20 points	max 80
3 days late	-30 points	max 70
4 days late	-40 points	max 60
5 days or later	zero assigned to the grade book	

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Except during designated group work, you are expected to complete homework, class work, and tests on your own. If you use someone else’s work—even a phrase—in an essay or assignment, or talk during a NO TALKING assignment, such as a quiz or test, you will receive a ZERO and your parents will be notified. If you copy or otherwise cheat, you will receive a ZERO and your parents will be notified. Cheating is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, but more importantly, cheating does not prepare you to make it on your own.

**CELL PHONE POLICY:**

Generally, the use of cell phones during class is a distraction and impedes the learning process. Therefore, cell phone use is prohibited during class, unless specifically stated otherwise. On occasion, I may collect cell phones from students at the beginning of class and return at the end. If a student is asked to surrender their cell phone and fails to comply, the disciplinary action prescribed by school policy and procedures will apply.

**COMMUNICATION:**

**All information about the class will be on the HUB.** You will see **information** about assignments and meetings in **Announcements** every time you log in to the HUB. You will **join class meetings** by clicking a **link** under **Events** on the HUB. Your **course work** can always be found in **Resources** on the HUB.

I use email to contact students and parents. For students, I will use your school email account. I expect you to check your email every day. Parents, please feel free to send me your email so I can reach, if needed.

You can contact me several different ways. Below is a list from the best to the worst ways to reach me.

1. Send me an email – [james.cherry@houstonisd.org](mailto:james.cherry@houstonisd.org). I check my email multiple times a day. This is the very best way to reach me. I will answer within 24 hours. I will do my best to answer you the same day but sometimes that won’t be possible.
2. Come to my on-line Office Hours. I will be available every day for 45 minutes where students and teachers can contact me with questions, ask for help on assignments, review material, etc.

3. Send a message through the Remind app. I use Remind mostly to communicate general information to my classes. You can send me a message through the app but direct email to me is better.
4. Send me a message through the HUB. If you do this, do not expect an immediate answer. I don't always notice or remember the messages that come through to me on the HUB.

**Course Outline:**

<p>Semester One:</p> <p>Background to American History          Industrialization and the "Gilded Age"          Imperialism and Reform: The Progressive Era          America in WWI          Economics and Politics of the 1920's and 1930's</p>	<p>Semester Two:</p> <p>The Rise of Dictators and WWII          The Cold War          Civil Rights          Constitutional Issues and Changes          Change Over Time: Trends in US History          The Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Contemporary Issues          Foundations of America: Thought Toward a More Perfect Union</p>
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**U.S. History Syllabus Acknowledgement**

Please read, sign, date, and return this page.  
*\*This signed syllabus is a homework grade.*

We have received and reviewed the US History Course Syllabus. We understand what is expected of us as listed in the syllabus.

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Student Signature	Date
Parent Signature	Date

*\*This signed syllabus is a homework grade.*