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US History 1877—Present

Course Syllabus 2022 - 2023

Instructor: James Cherry

Email james.cherry@houstonisd.org

Room: 1133

Tutorials: Tuesday/Thursday after school 4-5 PM, daily prior to school 7-8:20 AM or my appointment

Conference: 1st & 8th Periods

Email Response Time

Generally, I will return emails within the same day they were received, even weekends. If I will be out of touch for more than a couple of days I will notify you in advance.

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. 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 Honesty:

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. Cell phones should be put away during class lectures and during Do Now activities. Cell phones may be used, quietly, such as to listen to music, during independent work or when all assignments for the day have been completed. 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.

Tardy Policy:

- Students are considered tardy if they are not already in classroom immediately after the tardy bell rings, unless a student has a signed note from a teacher or administrator, or has received verbal permission from the class instructor to be a few minutes late
- When tardy, the student will sign the tardy log with reason given for being tardy
- 2nd tardy – Call and/or email home
- 4th tardy - Parent communication + after-school detention (Tuesdays or Thursdays)
- 6th tardy - Administration involvement

Classroom Expectations & Norms:

- Come prepared to engage and to participate
- If you do not understand a concept, ask your instructor to clarify; do not apologize for asking
- Listen when others are speaking
- Have school supplies – pen, paper, etc.
- Have your laptop (charged) and charger
- Respect individuals and property rights.
- Ideas, without facts, are just opinions
- Ideas are open to criticism, not people. We engage in civic discourse; therefore, respect is imperative. Treat your classmates and instructor as you would wish to be treated. Ideas on the other hand, **fire away** at them.

Bathroom Policy

- No bathroom breaks the first 15 minutes, or the last 15 minutes of class
- Bathroom passes are one at a time, with certain exceptions allowed for emergencies
- You are almost adults; be responsible, work out whose turn it is, complete written passes as needed yourself, and take care of your needs promptly
- Be respectful of your classmate's time – hurry back
- Do not interrupt your instructor during lecture by asking for a pass

COMMUNICATION:

All information about the class will be on Canvas. You will see **information** about assignments and meetings in **Announcements** every time you log in to Canvas. Your **course work** can always be found in **Canvas**.

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. 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 classroom during Office Hours, 1st and 8th periods. 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 me a message through Canvas.

Course Outline:

| | |
|---|---|
| Semester One: | Semester Two: |
| Background to American History | The Rise of Dictators and WWII |
| Industrialization and the “Gilded Age” | The Cold War |
| Imperialism and Reform: The Progressive Era | Civil Rights |
| America in WWI | Constitutional Issues and Changes |
| Economics and Politics of the 1920’s and 1930’s | Change Over Time: Trends in US History |
| | The Late 20 th Century: Contemporary Issues |
| | Foundations of America: Thought Toward a More Perfect Union |

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.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Best phone number for contacting parent/guardian

Best email address for contacting parent/guardian

****This signed syllabus is a homework grade. Failure to return it signed, dated with parent/guardian contact information within one (1) week will result in a 0% being entered into the gradebook***