

Course Syllabus

Unites States History II & American Studies II (all sections)

Course Description:

United States History II is designed to give students a basic understanding of the history of our country from 1826 through World War I and up to the time of the stock market crash in 1929. Lesson #1 begins with a brief review of what was covered in USH I and takes us through the growth of our country, the Civil War, Reconstruction Era, the Gilded Age and then our involvement in World War I. We provide an introduction during USH II to each of the presidents that served our country during this timeframe.

American Studies II provides students a detailed review and study of *Democracy in America* written in 1830 by Alexis de Tocqueville. The course provides an understanding of how America was different at that time from France or most of the other countries in Western Europe. We take a long and careful look at what Tocqueville sees in the culture, daily life and politics of America. This study provides an interesting review of the good he saw as well as the potential future problems he identified. During this course students will be able to better understand how our country functions, from the local to the national level.

Students are guided through each lesson by using a Study Guide booklet they will receive electronically at the beginning of the semester. It is highly recommended that they use the Study Guide to take notes during the live class discussions. Quiz and Test questions are developed from the information discussed in class and from the Study Guides.

Student Requirements:

Listening: Students are expected to have a microphone and encouraged to ask questions and participate when the instructor raises questions.

Writing:

- Each semester students will be required to write several full page essays from topics assigned by the instructor.
- Students are required to write at least one essay each semester in cursive. Others can be written on the computer using Word, PowerPoint or some similar tools.
- All essays must be converted to PDF files and submitted on-line through Canvas.

Research:

- Students are encouraged to use their textbooks, but also other outside sources.

Textbooks:

Democracy in America, Alexis de Tocqueville, 9780865978409

Grading:

Weekly Quizzes - 40%

Individual Essay Reports – 20%

Study Guide Tests (2 per semester) - 30%

In-Class Participation - 10%

TOTAL 100%

The lowest two scores of the Weekly Quizzes and the lowest score of the Individual Essay Reports will be dropped each semester.

Attendance/Participation:

Classroom discussion and instruction will prove invaluable to your understanding of the subject. In addition, there will be many opportunities to workshop your pieces in class. Unless you have an excused absence, you will miss out on points for these workshops. Please notify the instructor in advance (if possible) of your absence.

Expectations:

- 1. Weekly Reading Assignments:** You must read the reading assignment before the start of each lesson. Keeping up with these reading assignments will bring more meaning to our class discussions and will make the learning experience easier for each student..
- 2. Class Etiquette:** You must be respectful of other people. Everyone must feel free to participate and learn. Do not mock or give negative feedback on anyone's comments in class.. We are all here to learn together and any question is welcome.
- 3. Submitting Assignments: (quizzes, reports and tests)** You **MUST** submit your assignments through Canvas.
- 4. Participation/Preparation:** You **MUST** come to class ready. This means bringing your textbooks and Study Guides to every class session.
- 5. Grades:** If you submit all of your assignments and follow directions, you should have no problem receiving a high grade.
- 6. Due Dates:** All due dates are listed on the Weekly Lesson Schedule located in the Announcements section. There are two dates you need to be aware of: the publish date and the due date. Every assignment is opened following the second class each week (generally Wednesday) and is due by midnight on Friday (local time for you). **I won't grade any assignments that are turned in after the due date** unless an exception has been granted and by rule any late assignment must be given a (O) zero.