

# Course Syllabus

## Unites States History I & American Studies I (all sections)

### Course Description:

*United States History I* is designed to give students a basic understanding of the history of our country from its' beginnings through the year 1825. Lesson #1 begins with an overview of the situation in Western Europe during the 1400 and 1500's which lead to the exploration and eventual settlement by Western Europeans in the New World. The lessons then follow on from the discovery of the shores of our country through the early settlement, establishment of the original colonies, and the struggles with British rule. The course includes an overview of the times of our first four presidents.

*American Studies I* is designed to give the students a better understanding of the documents written by our Founding Fathers. The second part of American Studies reviews Bastiats' book entitled *The Law*. Using *The Law* students will examine what a country would be like if it was governed properly. We also explore what can happen when socialistic ideas begin to gain a foothold in a country.

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 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:

*A Basic History of the United States, Volume 1 & Volume 2, Carson, 978193178909 and 9781931789103*

*Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, Lossing, 9780925279453*

*The Law: The Blueprint for a Free Society, Bastiat, 9780898031751*

*The Boston Massacre: A History with Documents, 9780415873499*

## **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. Neither of the Study Guide Test scores will be dropped.

## **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 reports 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.