

**WEBSTER GROVES HIGH SCHOOL
U.S. HISTORY SINCE 1865**

2019 - 2020

Instructor: Julie Burchett

Contact Information:

Webster Groves High School

Room 276 – Teaching 1,2,3,5 and 7th hours

Plan and PD – 4 and 6th hour

Tuesday – Thursday afternoons - Scholar Bowl

Thursday mornings before school - History Club

Friday mornings before school – Social Justice Club

100 Selma Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63119

(314) 918.4056

burchett.julie@wgmail.org

Office Hours: Monday 2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. M, W

Or by appointment

I do have some flexibility during the day 4th and 6th hour so we can possibly arrange a time during your Academic Lab, if you have one during 4th or 6th period..

Purpose and Description:

This course is the study of American History from after the Civil War to the present. The units encourage students to synthesize the materials, recognize cause/effect relationships, and draw conclusions concerning American history. Students will be challenged to further develop reading, writing, oral communication, and research skills.

The curriculum will be presented chronologically.

Topics will include the Reconstruction period, Industrialization and labor movements, immigration, American imperialism and expansion overseas, World War I and its aftermath, Prohibition and the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression and New Deal, World War II, the Cold War, and the civil rights movement. The course will conclude by studying the Sixties, Seventies, the resurgence of Conservatism, and Post-Cold War America.

Reading, analysis of primary sources, guest speakers, field trips, educational games, simulations, research, Document Based Questions (DBQ), Socratic seminar, historical reflections, and experiential learning class projects are some of the methods that will be used in the presentation of American history. At all times, we will relate current events to historic happenings and ways of thinking.

General Objectives:

- To use your understanding of US History to gain an enhanced view of American society in the present
- To acquire a critical understanding of the history and values of the United States as a means towards developing increased activism or political participation
- To discover that America is a product of cultural pluralism and to explore the role of women and minorities in the development of our nation
- To understand America's place in world affairs by studying its changing role throughout American history
- To recognize the tensions between proclaimed values in American society such as individual liberties vs. the common welfare; capitalism vs. egalitarianism; and to understand how these sometimes conflicting values are balanced
- To discover the various interpretations of historians about single events as a way to greater understanding of the events
- To improve student research and analytical skills to better utilize information gathered
- To honor the lives and sacrifices of previous Americans and to use their lives as an inspiration in making choices and living our own lives

Major Themes of the Course:

The Role of Political Compromise in American Democracy
Foreign Policy Dilemma: Isolationism versus Engagement
The Power of Ideas in the Shaping of History
American Expansionism (Territorial, Economic, Cultural)
Cultural Diversity and Xenophobia

Student Responsibilities:

Individual responsibility for assigned reading
Complete class work, homework, and projects thoroughly and on time
Actively participate in class
Give your best effort at all times
Take organized notes on readings and class discussions and activities. Review your notes often.
Use the teacher and fellow students as resources by regularly asking questions about information or concepts that are unclear.
Become involved in your learning
Be an active member of and utilize your study groups
Have fun with your learning in United States history

Testing:

Reading quizzes will be given at the end of most chapters. Unit assessments (test or project) will be given at the end of each of the major units covered in class. Students will have choice in their selection of questions they choose to answer in essay exams. A final exam will be administered in each semester of the course.

Research and Unit Projects:

Students will have two or more two to three page research or other types of historical argument papers per semester along with a research assignments based on student interests. They are, in brief, historical research papers with a clearly stated thesis, supporting evidence, and documentation. Research will require the use of a variety of sources with an emphasis on both primary and secondary sources. Students may select their topics of research but each must be from the time period of study for the current semester. A list of possible topics will be given to students. The second semester research assignment may involve a formal debate. Students will also be required to collaborate on group projects, designed to creatively demonstrate their knowledge of the topic being studied. Critical thinking and problem solving skills will be emphasized. Effective oral and written communication skills will be required in this class.

Possible Experiential Learning Projects:

- Oral History of Webster Groves citizens during a certain decade/time period
- ‘You are the Teacher’ – expert videos or podcasts created by you, the student, to teach our class
- Meeting of the Minds – Role play of famous Americans as they are guests on a talk show
- Showcase of U.S. History for elementary students
- Model UN
- Election Polling/Voter Registration
- Many other possibilities!! Start thinking of what would be fun!

Grades:

Grades will be based on the following:

Unit tests

Reading quizzes

Short historical essays

Major research project/paper

Group projects

Individual projects

Daily work and participation

Students will re-take any test, quiz, etc. until they receive a 70% or higher.

The above produces the 18 week average which is:

85% of the semester grade; and

Final exam: 15% of the semester grad

Grading Scale:

| | |
|--------------|----|
| 100 – 93 | A |
| 90 – 92 | A- |
| 87 – 89 | B+ |
| 83 – 86 | B |
| 80 – 82 | B- |
| 77 – 79 | C+ |
| 73 – 76 | C |
| 70 – 72 | C- |
| 67 – 69 | D+ |
| 63 – 66 | D |
| 60 – 62 | D- |
| 59 and below | F |

Outline of Topics:

Fall Semester –

- Review Chapter 04 - The Union in Peril
- Chapter 05 - Changes on the Western Frontier
- Chapter 06 - A New Industrial Age
- Chapter 07 - Immigrants and Urbanization
- Chapter 08 – Life at the Turn of the 20th Century
- Chapter 09 - The Progressive Era
- Chapter 10 – America Claims an Empire
- Chapter 11 - The First World War
- Chapter 12 – Politics of the Roaring Twenties
- Chapter 13 - The Roaring Life in the 1920's
- Chapter 14 – The Great Depression Begins

Spring Semester -

- Chapter 15 - The New Deal
- Chapter 16 - World War Looms Again
- Chapter 17 – The United States in WWII
- Chapter 18 - Cold War Conflicts
- Chapter 19 – The Post-War Boom
- Chapter 20 – The New Frontier and the Great Society
- Chapter 21 - Civil Rights
- Chapter 22 - The Vietnam War Years
- Chapter 23 – An Era of Social Change
- Chapter 24 – An Age of Limits
- Chapter 25 – The Conservative Tide

Course Text and Readings:

Danzer, Gerald A., deAlva, J. Jorge Klor, Krieger, Larry S., Wilson, Louis E., Woloch, Nancy. The Americans. (Boston: McDougall/Littell/Houghton Mifflin).

Bailey, Thomas A. A Diplomatic History of the American People (Princeton: Prentice Hall)

Feder, Bernard. Viewpoints:USA (New York: American Book Company)

Henretta, James A., Brody, David, and Dumenil, Lynn. America's History Volume 1 and 2 and Accompanying Documents, 6th edition (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's)

Maddox, Robert J. Annual Editions: American History Vol I and II (Sluice Dock, Guilford: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill)

Zinn, Howard. A People's History of the United States (New York: Harper Perennial)

Various articles from professional U. S. History journals

Mrs. Burchett loves films. Come tell her your favorite film on the day this syllabus reading is due and win a fabulous prize!

Video Supplements may include:

1776. Columbia Pictures, 2002.

The American Experience. PBS (various episodes from the series)

Biography. A&E (various episodes)

The Civil War. Ken Burns Producer. PBS. 1990

Far and Away. Universal, 1992

Cinderella Man. Universal, 2005

Baseball. Ken Burns Producer. PBS (Shadow Ball episode)

Prohibition. Ken Burns Producer. PBS

Jazz. Ken Burns Producer. PBS

Apollo 13. Universal, 1995

Thirteen Days in October. New Line Cinema, 2001

Various documentary and primary source footage from the Library of Congress.

Other films / excerpts as decided by instructor

Possible Field Trips:

Bellefontaine Cemetery

Missouri History Museum

Griot Museum of Black History/ Scott Joplin House/ Old Courthouse
