



10th Grade History-- U.S. History

Instructor: Robert St. John

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Text: *The American Vision*, publisher: Glencoe

Required: Grade 10

Duration: Full year

Credits: 1.0

Aims:

The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand:

1. Culture and traditions of Americans and their ancestors.
2. American values and Americans in history who exemplified these values.
3. Connectedness to the past and events that forced change.
4. Geography and its effects on the lives of Americans.
5. Government in America and how it relates to other governments.
6. Technology and science in American history.
7. Free enterprise and how it connects to America's history of rights and freedoms.
8. America's global interconnectedness and its consequences.
9. Every citizen's basic civic responsibilities to preserve American freedoms.

Subject matter of the course: Contact between Native Americans and Europeans, the development of colonies, the rise to rebellion against Britain, the Constitution and the new government, Lewis and Clark, Manifest Destiny and the Mexican War, the development of technology, the causes and effects of the Civil War, the growth of the United States as a world power and its entry into World War One, Prohibition, the Great Depression, the causes and effects of World War Two, and the Cold War and its aftermath. Throughout, emphasis will be placed on thinking and the relevance of the subject matter to our own lives.

Expectations and grading criteria:

Tests and daily work comprise the bulk of the grade each quarter. During the first and third quarters, students will also be expected to complete research projects, based on posted criteria. Students should participate in class, take notes, keep up with assignments, and pay attention during study sessions before tests. Students are expected to bring their completed homework and their fully-charged computers to class every day. Students are also expected to purchase a textbook, and to have it available during school, even though it will be used infrequently in class. In addition, students are expected to turn in work on time, following the class guidelines of correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and writing mechanics. All work should follow the approved format—Times New Roman font, 12-point type, normal margins, with the student's name, class, and the date printed on the top of the page. Either double or single spacing is accepted in this class. Weekly papers are graded based on a 300-word standard length. Quality work is characterized by adherence to the format, evidence of advanced personal thought on the matter at hand, and an impressive grasp of the vocabulary and of the content. Research papers are longer, depending on the assignment. Other research projects (not papers) are assigned on occasion and the criteria will be posted and discussed at the proper time.