

United States History
Mr. Cavender – Room 210
2009-2010

What is U.S. History?

In this course you will study the history of the United States; its peoples, cultures, government, ideas, innovations, conflicts, communities, environments, and faiths. You will have opportunities to investigate questions that are of special interest to you. Virtually all interests can be incorporated into the study of United States history because it is so broad. For example, drama, food, sports, pets, arts, relationships, science, technology, health and careers – all of these subject areas can and will be connected to United States history. This course will also allow you to develop the writing, speaking, research, and thinking skills that will be useful to you outside of the classroom.

Text: The Americans by McDougal Littell

United States History is the third in a sequence of four years of study in the Social Studies for students at CHS.

11th grade: United States History or AP U.S. History

Course Objectives

- Engage your interest in the analytical study of past events, people, and cultures.
- Enable your critical thinking and creative problem solving skills
- Enable you to acquire the skills necessary for progressing towards college-level reading and writing tasks.
- Enhance your awareness of the connections between past and present, especially the ways in which historical knowledge shapes personal and cultural identity.
Empower you to navigate traditional and emerging sources of information about the past in ways that are productive and ethical.

Course Work

Daily Required Materials

- Text – Covered
- Dedicated U.S History 3-ring binder with Syllabus, dividers and paper, room to accommodate and organize handouts. In general, I recommend that you organize your papers by topic. For example, grouping together all homework, quizzes, worksheets and notes from Chapter 1 will make review that much easier.
- Pencil pouch or box
- Pens and pencils (blue/black)
- Highlighters in 2 colors
- Bring Daily Planner to class

Additional Materials

- Colored Pencils
- Index Cards
- Method for organizing cards: Box, Ring, Baggie, Rubber Band.

Rules

General guidelines for conduct can be found in the CHS Student Handbook. Familiarize yourself with CHS rules and expectations, particularly those governing academic honesty.

Conduct and Procedures

- Come to class on time, with your books, homework, supplies, etc., having taken care of your personal needs during your personal time between classes.
- Be ready to participate and don't be afraid to ask questions about things you don't understand.
- Be self aware. Are you someone who ALWAYS answers questions? Be ready to let others have the floor. Are you someone who NEVER volunteers information? Be ready to make your contribution in discussion.
- Use class time appropriately. Do you have an issue that relates only to you, such as the need to schedule a makeup test or a question about a test? Plan on discussing this with your instructor AFTER school or after class.
- Excuses – Don't make them.
- Help – Seek it in a timely fashion, before due dates, not after them.

Grading

Grading is on a total points system.

Points (out of)

Tests	100
Quiz	25 or 50
Homework	20
Oral/Written/Group Project	50 or 100

Final Exams

- At the end of the First semester you will have a final exam covering what you have learned in the first and second quarters.
- At the end of the Second Semester you will have a final exam covering what you have learned in the third and fourth quarters. (Not cumulative over the entire year.)

HOMEWORK

After each class meeting in U.S. History, your assignment will be to take notes on a section of a chapter. You will receive instructions on exactly how to do this. In fact, this assignment is so regular and predictable that if you are absent, you will know just what you missed. It also makes it easy for you to work ahead if you have another major project to work on or are involved in another activity facing a busy season.

There may, every once in a while, be different types of homework. For example, the night before a test, your assignment may be to study. Homework, assignments may also vary while major projects are ongoing.

Homework is always due at the next class meeting.

HOMEWORK – Due Dates

- Late work will be penalized no less than 50%.
- Not all assignments may be submitted late. The decision to accept late work is the instructor's and will be made at my discretion.
- In general, major projects will not be accepted beyond the due date without a verified medical excuse.
- Failure to complete your assignments in a timely fashion means that you are arriving unprepared for class.
- For timetables on due dates for make-up work, see school handbook. Note that this applies to work that was *assigned* the day you missed, not to work that was *due* the day you missed – *that work is due upon your return to school, not class*. Work may be turned in to me, or through the front office. You may request that your work be placed in my box.
- If you were absent the day an assignment was due, to avoid a late grade your work should be in my box the morning of the day your return to school, not after your next study hall, and not at the next class meeting.
- If you have a school-related absence it is your responsibility to turn the work in to my box on the date it is due unless you have consulted with me and made other arrangements in advance.
- For group and/or major projects, as well as certain writing assignments, it is your responsibility to turn in your work the day it is due, even if you are absent that day for any reason. Projects and assignments that fit into this category will be identified for you in class as they are assigned.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is simple Do your own work. *When you turn in your homework it is understood that you are representing that work as proof of your own effort, effort beyond the copying process.* For example, the notes you take on a textbook reading assignment are considered documentation of a process you went through in reading the actual text.

TESTS & ABSENCE

Don't get in the habit of using absence, late arrivals, early departures, scheduled appointments, etc., as a way to extend due dates and postpone test dates. Being able to move forward as a class with timely review of tested material is vital. Missing a test often means you will also miss out on instruction during the next class meeting which will almost always incorporate review – a

review you cannot participate in if you haven't taken the test! For that reason, your presence on all test days is expected and the following policies will be enforced.

Absence Due to Illness – Excused

- If missing an exam is unavoidable due to illness you should anticipate taking it upon your return to school. It is your responsibility to see me the next class day – to consult about scheduling a make-up time.
- *After two missed tests due to illness you will be required to provide a medical excuse from a physician's office in order to be permitted to take a make-up exam.* Note that for scheduled medical or doctor's appointments (medical, dental, orthodontics, etc.) the planned absence policy applies and accommodation for you to take the appropriate make-up exam will only be made with advance notice.

Planned/Scheduled Absence – Excused

- If you miss an exam for an approved, scheduled, and/or school-related purpose be aware that it is your responsibility to notify me (in advance, and personally) to make arrangements to take the exam you will miss, either before or immediately after your scheduled absence, at my discretion.

Unexcused Absences & Scheduled/Excused Absences without advance notification

- Tests missed as a result of unexcused absence may not be made up and will earn a test grade of zero.
- *This policy also applies to scheduled absences (personal appointments or school activities) where arrangements have not been made in advance.*

United States History

I have read the description of course policies and procedures, including especially the policies governing absence on test days, the scheduling of make-up tests, due dates for assignments, the importance of coming to class prepared , and academic honesty.

Student Signature

Parent Signature