

Welcome to US History II with Miss O'Reilly and Mrs. Mascia! Somerset County Vo-Tech HS 2015-2016

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to gain an appreciation and an understanding of United States history from 1930 to the present. The course is taught both chronologically and thematically; it is broken up into 5 units of study. The course begins with the Great Depression and ends with terrorism and current events.



Course Agenda

- Unit 1 – The Great Depression, New Deal, & World War II (1929-1945)
- Unit 2 – Postwar United States: Cold War (1945-early 1970s)
- Unit 3 – Postwar United States: Civil Rights & Social Change (1945-early 1970s)
- Unit 4 – Contemporary United States: Domestic (1970-today)
- Unit 5 – Contemporary United States: International Policies & Interconnected Global Society (1970-today)

Course Goals

- 1.) Analyze and interpret primary and secondary source documents
- 2.) Analyze and apply maps, graphs, images, and political cartoons to historical content
- 3.) Understand and analyze key people, places, and events in US history
- 4.) Evaluate the impact of wars, culture, technology, and historical events on the United States
- 5.) Connect the content to real world situations and current events

Student Evaluations

Students will be evaluated daily through class assignments, group work, projects, research projects, quizzes, and tests. Each unit will consist of a variety of student evaluations to gauge student growth and progress to mastering the learning goals and objectives. Unit tests will be given to show student mastery of the content covered in each unit of study.

Grade Breakdown

Tests.....	25%
Projects.....	25%
Quizzes.....	20%
Classwork/Homework.....	15%
Class Participation.....	15%



Required Supplies (to be brought to class each day)

- Student ID (must be visible at all times)
- One spiral bound notebook OR 3-ring binder with loose-leaf paper
- 1 folder with pockets for handouts
- Pens and pencils
- *Optional supplies:* index cards, highlighters, and colored pencils



Expectations

1. Follow directions the first time they are given
 - a. This is critical as we only have 40 minutes together each day and we have so much to learn this school year! By following directions the first time they are given, you are showing respect to both your teachers and your classmates. You are showing that you are prepared to learn and are eager to move onto the next task.
2. Be respectful
 - a. Respecting your teachers and peers is crucial in our classroom. We want to create a safe space for students to learn, question, analyze, evaluate, and engage with history. Sometimes we may discuss difficult topics or events, which calls for the utmost respect. We are here to support every student and we also expect you to support your peers and teachers. Being respectful also means not using your cell phone, tablet, iPad, iPod, and other technology devices in case unless otherwise instructed by the teacher(s). Technology devices are to remain off and out of sight in the classroom.
3. Be prepared
 - a. Every day you must come to class prepared to learn. This means coming with physical items, such as your ID, notebook, folder, pen or pencil, homework, project, etc. This also means coming to class with your brain prepared to learn and engage in the class activities for the day. If you have not completed your assignments and you are not prepared to learn, you may be unable to participate in certain activities planned for that day. This could result in a loss of points for your marking period participation grade.

Classroom Procedures

Entering the Classroom: When you enter the classroom, go to your assigned seat. Take out any homework you may have and place it in the appropriate class bin. Complete the Do Now and wait for the class to begin.

Dismissal from Class: The bell is a reminder to the teachers and students that we have been together for 40 minutes. It does not signify that you can pack up and leave the room. The teacher(s) will tell you when to pack up and will dismiss you, not the bell. Students will not be dismissed until all students are sitting in their assigned seats.

Tardy: If you are tardy to class, you must enter the room quietly and find your assigned seat. The teacher(s) will come over to address you and get you caught up at their earliest availability. You must present the teacher(s) with a pass. If you are 20 or more minutes tardy to class, it is considered a cut and a full absence is given for that class period.

Absences: If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to see the teacher(s) and get whatever notes, materials, assignments, etc. that you missed. For notes, the teacher will likely point you to a student that you can copy the notes from. If you missed a quiz, test, or project presentation, you will need to work out a time with the teacher(s) to make-up those assignments. If you are absent, for instance, on a Monday and on Tuesday you come see the teacher about missing work, whatever work was assigned Monday and due Tuesday will now be due the following day (Wednesday) for you.

Homework: Students must complete all homework assignments. It counts for 15% of your grade. To receive full credit, homework must be handed in on time, be fully completed, and fulfill the requirements.

Contact Information

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US History II
Miss O'Reilly and Mrs. Mascia
SCVTHS 2015-2016

Open-Ended Questions

What do you expect to learn in this course?

What are your expectations for Miss O'Reilly and Mrs. Mascia in class this year?

I have read the course syllabus, course requirements, class expectations, and procedures. My signature below indicates that I understand the requirements and policies for this course and agree to follow them throughout the school year. I am aware of the high expectations and I am prepared to meet those expectations.

Student's printed name: _____

Student's signature: _____

Date: _____