

**Honors United States History
Course Syllabus**

Lincoln High School
2016/2017

Instructor:

Mr. Almeida

Extra Help:

Available after school

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Lincoln High School's Core Values

Respect, Integrity, Safety, Engagement, Unity and Pride

Belief Statements

We believe:

- All students deserve a safe, nurturing and respectful environment in which to learn
- All students are empowered to become lifelong learners and productive citizens in a global
- All students should graduate career and/or college ready through multiple pathways of
- Meaningful and varied assessments inform high quality instruction
- Positive peer and adult relationships foster student success
- Resiliency and perseverance in the face of obstacles are keys to student success

Academic Expectations *(The following expectations will be met through this course.)*

- **Students will be thoughtful communicators who read, write, listen and speak effectively in preparation for careers and/or post-secondary education**
- **Students will be creative and practical problem solvers**
- **Students will be responsible users of technology and media**
- **Students will demonstrate continuous effort towards proficiency in all requirements for graduation**

Social Expectations

- **Students will assume responsibility for their actions**
- **Students will demonstrate the ability to resolve conflicts responsibly**
- **Students will demonstrate respect and responsibility for the well-being and welfare of others within a diverse school community**

Civic Expectations

- Students will contribute to the well-being of the wider community through service
- **Students will recognize their importance as participating members of American society within a global context**

Course Objectives

This course in United States History is a required course for all eleventh grade students. Exploring the question of what it means to be an American, the course will begin with a thematic review of the major themes of the early American experience. The broad overview will explore the theme of colonization and the clash of cultures, the development of the traditions of participatory government, the early republic and the related themes of nationalism, sectionalism, and the influence of expansion and the frontier on the development of the American character. The major focus of the course, however, will be the shaping of the American experience from 1850 to the present. Through both a chronological and thematic approach, the course will focus on the impact various groups of people, individuals, and ideas had and continue to have on the nation. Students will develop critical thinking skills necessary for them to make political, social, economic, geographic, and cultural connections. As a consequence, students will develop an appreciation for as well as a clear understanding of the elements of our American heritage and current experience. This course is a requirement for graduation. (Program of Studies)

This rigorous class will train students to think critically and to engage in cultural analysis. Students will read literary and informational texts for comprehension and analysis.

In order to create individual responsibility and personal communication skills, students will work independently and in cooperative learning groups. A variety of instructional methods will be employed to help students become lifelong learners in a global society.

We will be spending a considerable amount of time writing in this course. Writing assignments will range from informal in nature to a very structured and formal style. It is my hope that as the year goes on your writing will improve. If you do not consider yourself a strong writer do not worry. I will be providing you with a great deal of support.

Students will receive many opportunities to fulfill their PBGR requirements throughout this class. The various tasks assigned in this class will meet many of the Lincoln High School mission statement indicators but ultimately it is the student's responsibility to ensure that all PBGR requirements are met.

Course Requirements

There will be 50% objective and 50% essay examinations or 100% essay examinations that will last one class period. The essays can either be a long single question or a number of shorter interpretive writings. Tests are expected to be completed within the allotted class time (IEP or 504 Plan provisions excluded). If you are absent the day of the review you are still required to take the test upon your return to school.

Quarterly grades are based on a total points system. The breakdown is as follows:

Tests: 80-100 points

Essays, Projects: 50-100 points

Quizzes: 25-50 points

Homework: 10-20 points

Homework will normally fall into the following grading categories:

√+ = 10 out 10 pts

√ = 8 out of 10 pts

√- = 7 out of 10 points

∅ = No credit given. Assignment must be resubmitted for credit.

Homework should be handed in on-time. Late homework will only receive partial credit. Homework handed in after one day of the original due date will receive no credit. Work cannot be made up at the end of the quarter. Work must be completed either in pencil or black/blue ink. Homework in any other ink color will not be accepted.

There will be a major term paper due. More information will follow in class. Each semester there is an exam worth 20% of the semester grade.

Academic Dishonesty

There are serious consequences for cheating. Cheating is considered copying work from another student or another source and turning it in as your own. Remember there are consequences for both the copier and the person who allows a fellow student to copy their work. Zeros will be assigned to all students involved. Plagiarism is considered cheating. Receiving a zero on a major grade (essay, test, project, etc.) can have a devastating effect on your grade. Additionally, cheating can result in impeding one's membership into the National Honor Society or expulsion from the National Honor Society. If you do not understand an assignment or you are having trouble, come see me so I can help you.

Attendance and Class Participation

Be on time to class. Passing time has now been increased from four to five minutes to allow students more time in-between classes. Habitual lateness will result in teacher detention.

Barring sickness, you should be in class everyday. Because we will be moving quickly, you are not to miss class for any extra-curricular reasons, such as selling tickets, blood drives, etc. If you do miss class for a valid reason you should refer to the absence folder for any missed handouts or homework assignment. If the folder is empty do not assume that there was no homework. When in doubt please see me.

Students are expected to actively participate in classroom learning experience. Students participate by preparing for class by completing the homework, asking thoughtful and probing questions of the instructor, classmates, and themselves. History is always open for interpretation therefore students need to think analytically in this course.

Student Materials

Bring your textbook, notebooks—which you use *only* for this class—and a writing utensil to class everyday. It is important that you bring your notebook to class everyday as you will be expected to take notes from the lectures and group discussions. In addition to your notebook, you need to bring a folder to class everyday. You will be receiving *many* handouts this year so sticking handouts in the back of your notebook or textbook will not do. It is recommended you use a loose-leaf three-ring binder for class notes (so you can add distributed readings directly to your notes) and spiral notebook for the reading notes.

Course Outline

- Reconstruction & Westward Expansion
 - The Gilded Age
 - The Progressive Era
- Imperialism and World War I
- Great Depression and the New Deal
 - World War II
- The Cold War & Civil Rights
 - Conservative Resurgence
- Modern America and Post 9/11 Society