



BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY

St. Albans, Vermont

Social Studies Department Course Syllabus

Course Name: *United States History 234*

Course ID: *10234Y*

Course Credits: *1*

Instructor: *Howard, Sara*

Year/Term: *2019-20*

Room: *B206*

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Course Information

Description:

United States History is a required course for juniors. Students analyze America from a social, political, economic, military, domestic point of view to the late 1990's. U.S. History (Semester 1) covers the Pre-Civil War era through World War I. U.S. History (Semester 2) covers the twentieth century beginning with the 1920's. A variety of learning strategies will be used including discussions, multimedia, simulations, research, and outside readings. Evaluation is based on participation, assignments, tests and projects. Proficiencies: Inquiry, History, Geography, Civics, Government and Society, Economics.

Prerequisites:

Global Studies, We the People and Junior Standing.

Course Standards:

- **1. Inquiry :** *Students make sense of the world around them through questioning. Students analyze information to develop reasonable explanations that support*

inquiry. Students communicate in ways that foster the exchange of ideas in a democratic society.

- **2. History:** *Students use historical inquiry, including the use of primary and secondary sources, to gather information about the past that will help them make sense of the present and decisions about the future.*

Transferable Skills:

- **Self-Direction:** *The ability to independently see a task through to completion, meet due dates, and come to class prepared; and can communicate with the instructor ahead of time to arrange alternate due dates for extenuating circumstances.*
- **Responsible & Involved Citizenship:** *Students take responsibility for personal decisions and actions; works collaboratively with others; and uses technology and digital media responsibly.*
- **Informed & Integrated Thinking:** *Use evidence to justify claims and arguments.*

Required Texts and Materials

The Americans (Publication: McDougal Littell)

Various short stories, articles, musical selections, online sources

A minimum of three independent research projects

Materials: Binder, lined paper, writing utensils. Chrome books will be provided for classroom use.

Scoring

Each course content standard will be averaged to the nearest whole number. All course content standards will then be averaged together to provide an Overall Course Proficiency/Standard Average. Students must have a 3.0 or higher as an Overall Course Proficiency Average in order to pass the class and receive course credit.

If a student's score trend over time shows a growth pattern that the average does not show, then scores will be adjusted higher to best represent that growth.

Assessment Policy

Assessments: *Each unit of study will consist of the multiple assessment strategies, outlined below.*

A variety of learning strategies will be used including, discussion, multimedia, simulations, research, term projects and some outside reading and writing. Evaluation is based on

participation, homework assignments, tests, and projects. As high school juniors, they will be asked to assume responsibility for your own learning.

Course Outline

Units of Study:

Unit 1 - Era of Growth and Disunion

- *Westward expansion unified our nation but also created tensions that threatened our nation's unity.*
- *The U.S. Civil War occurred because of regional differences in competing political, social, and economic beliefs that continue to affect us today.*
- *Reconstruction was an era of social, political, and constitutional conflict that had noble intentions but limited successes.*

Unit 2 - Migration and Industrialization

- *Industrialization led to a shift in power at all levels of the political, economic, and social structures.*
- *Rising immigration created both positive and negative impacts for the United States economic and social structure.*

Unit 3 - Modern America Emerges

- *The Gilded Age created political, social, and economic problems that led to a need of progressive reforms.*
- *At the beginning of the 20th Century, competition for economic, political, and military power brought the United States into international conflict.*
- *As the United States emerged as a world power, conflicting views towards isolationism challenged its foreign policy beliefs and resulted in American involvement in World War I.*

Unit 4 - The 1920s and the Great Depression

- *As economic, technological and societal changes expanded during the 1920s, the nation struggled to balance the impact on American values and its way of life.*
- *The economic collapse during the Great Depression forced the United States to change the relationship of the government with its citizens.*
- *The New Deal shifted the federal government's role to become the economic and social watchdog.*

Unit 5 - World War II and Its Aftermath

- *The international community was forced into World War II because of the rise of dictators and military expansion.*

- When the United States was forced to respond to a world at war, the political, social, and economic changes impacted the course of the 20th Century for our nation and the world.
 - The Cold War produced a bipolar alignment of philosophies and nations that competed for global power between the United States and the Soviet Union.
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- Life in postwar America is marked by social conformity and economic prosperity.

Unit 6 - Living with Great Turmoil

- The 1960s was a decade marked by social turmoil which led to a more equitable society.
- The Civil Rights Movement transformed the African American political, social, and economic relationships in the United States.
- The Cold War struggle of Vietnam divided the American nation and contributed to the turmoil of the 1960s.