

Course Description **Basic United States History**

Course Description:

This course will include the study of United States history from the colonial Period up to and including 21st century America. The events surrounding the American Revolution, growth of a nation through the Civil War, the ideological origins of the Civil War, Exploration of the Progressive Era, the Jazz Age, World War I and II causes and consequences for the U.S., the Civil Rights movement, and exploration of contemporary issues in present day America will be covered. Curriculum for this course is designed for students who are reading 2-4 years below grade level and/or have English as their second language. Pre-requisite: World History. This course is typically taken in the 10th or 11th grade. This is a one-year course, 5 credits each semester will be awarded with a passing grade.

Learning Objectives:

- *Understand the ideas which led to the formation of a new nation
- *Identify the guiding principles of the Constitution and Bill of Rights
- *Identify the cultural influences that have shaped American society
- *Understand the consequences and implications of the surge in immigration and nationwide industrialization on American society
- *Understand the role of the United States in major world conflicts and the implications and consequences for the U.S.

Curriculum:

Textbook, AGS, United States History, 1998

Corresponding workbooks and answer keys are to be used with the curriculum.

Key Assignments:

- 1) Students will complete the following per chapter:
 - Section Review Questions as assigned by the IST
 - Chapter Review Tests per chapter
 - Corresponding Workbook pages as assigned by the IST
- 2) Students will complete a map of the 13 original U.S. Colonies
- 3) Students will read Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes and in conjunction with the material presented in the textbook write a 3-5 page paper outlining the events which led to the American Revolution.
- 4) Students will read a biography of a famous figure from American History and write a 3-5 page report on the person's life including why they were (are) important to U.S. History.

5) Students will complete supplemental reading as assigned by the teacher.

- All written assignments are to be typed or legibly written in ink.
- Each student will do a first draft followed by consultation and grading by the teacher.
- The student will then edit the paper and submit a second draft. The second draft may be the final submission or it may need additional editing. This process is to continue until the student and teacher are satisfied that the paper is worthy of submission for evaluation.
- The final paper, together with all drafts, will be submitted and the final essay will be graded. The teacher or a colleague of the teacher will complete the assessment. School approved guidelines for grading, commonly called rubrics, will be followed by the teachers in the grading of student writing assignments.

Methods of Assessment:

A variety of assessment tools may be used. Written work, as described above, will be corrected in collaboration between the student, teacher, and parent. Final papers and chapter tests will be graded by the teachers. Assessment tools include but are not limited to:

- Periodic review of work by the independent study teacher
- Portfolios
- Parent facilitator observation
- Graded assignments
- Written examinations
- Research projects
- Oral presentation

Course Grading Scale:

Weekly Chapter Assignments: 30%

Chapter Review Tests: 30%

Papers: 40%

Suggested Supplemental Reading List:

Amos Fortune, Free Man

Justin Morgan Had a Horse

Witch of Blackbird Pond

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Sing Down the Moon

Harriet Tubman, Call to Freedom

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lyddie