

U.S. History (1 credit) (Grade 11- level 2)

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The United States History (level 2) course will allow students to study our past from the Reconstruction Era to the present (through thematic units). Students will have the opportunity to work cooperatively, develop communication skills, and improve reading and writing skills. Students will study historical events and related literature and will be expected to participate in class discussions & small group activities. In addition, students will evaluate the importance of key primary sources, listen to guest speakers & reflect upon the significance of this experience. Furthermore, students will analyze related video (& audio) resources for their historical significance, and defend a 'critical position' on a controversial issue from our past.

The following themes* will be studied this year-

- Understanding the repercussions of our past actions on present situations/events (e.g., cause & effect).
- The Impact of Technological Change on America during the late 19th century, on Native-Americans and immigrants.
- The effect on foreign relations between the U.S. and the world powers during the 'Age of Imperialism' through the Great War.
- The effects of the failure of Reconstruction for African-Americans and the U.S. Government through the Modern Civil Rights Movement.
- The rise of totalitarian governments during the 1920's and the consequences for the U.S. that led to our involvement in World War II.
- The competition for world resources (& economic influence) post WWII between the U.S. and the Soviet Union until the end of the 'Cold War'.
- The impact of the Vietnam Conflict on the U.S. Government, its citizens, and its lasting impact on U.S. foreign relations.
- The power and influence of U.S. presidents from John F. Kennedy through George W. Bush on both domestic & foreign policies.
- The impact of populist movements on the U.S. Government domestic policies.
- [If time allows] The role and *real impact* of women on our nation's past and looking at the feminist movement of today.

* *Units will be centered on a Core Theme with Essential Questions & Understandings.*

Resources utilized:

1. *American Odyssey: The United States I the 20th Century.* By Gary Nash; 2002 edition. [in class]
2. Primary source documents from the era being studied.
3. National Archives & Records Administration documents.
4. Video guides, music lyrics from that era, guest speakers [as living records], & a field trip.
5. Varied lessons & activities from the 'Teaching American history' & National Endowment for the Humanities programs.