

Central Valley Christian High School

United States History Syllabus

Mrs. Matos, Instructor

2008/2009 School Year

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Please note that I reserve the right to make additions or subtractions to the syllabus as required.

Course Description

Over the next year, we will examine significant events, movements, and patterns that have helped shape the modern world, from an American perspective. While our emphasis will be on the 19th and 20th centuries, we will delve deeper into history to connect modern forms of democracy, culture, and conflict to their historical roots.

Our textbook is A History of the United States.

Objectives

In this class, you will:

- Identify the effects of new and old ideas on major eras and link them to modern modes of thought.
- Identify the imprint of the World on the United States, and identify the imprint of the United States on the World.
- Develop an understanding of current US problems and relate them to their historic, geographic, cultural, political, and economic contexts.
- Trace the founding and development of democracy and its impact.
- Examine the age old struggle of humankind to achieve freedom, fight oppression, overcome tremendous barriers, and their failures and successes.

Grading

A. **Grading Categories**

- **Assignments** – Includes class work and homework assignments. It is the student's responsibility to keep papers for each unit, as I am human, and sometimes an assignment that was completed may not make it to the grade book. If you can prove to me that I corrected the assignment, I can then give you the "original" credit you earned. Otherwise, you will have to redo the assignment for partial credit. If a student is going to take the time to complete an assignment, it will be accepted – even if it is late. However, late work never receives full credit.

- **Assessments** – Assessments will be given to evaluate student understanding of covered material. Assessments may be given in a variety of formats that take into consideration the varied learning styles of students. A final project and/or examination will be given to all students at the conclusion of the semester.
- **Participation** – Current research indicates that one way students learn best is through constructive learning. Class discussions, reading aloud, class projects, etc... further enhance the learning experience, and assist in ensuring that students learn required material in a manner that can be drawn from further down the line, rather than lost after a test. Hence, participation in class is essential, and counted toward the overall class grade.

B. Grading Scale

- In keeping with CVCHS policy, the grading schedule is as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage Bracket
A	96% - 100%
A-	90% - 95%
B+	87% - 89%
B	83% - 86%
B-	80% - 82%
C+	77% - 79%
C	73% - 76%
C-	70% - 72%
D+	67% - 69%
D	63% - 66%
D-	60% - 62%
F	0% - 59%

- ***Cheating in ANY form will not be tolerated. The first offense will result in an automatic “0” on the quiz, exam, or homework assignment in question as well as a referral. Additional offenses will result in further discipline deemed appropriate by the instructor and/or the administration.***

Absences

- Many assignments are completed in class only and cannot be made up if you are absent. **BE IN CLASS!** Excessive absences will affect your grade.
- If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out what you missed and completing necessary assignments. Parents and students will need to utilize RenWeb to determine what assignments need to be taken care of while absent. If an extension of time is needed due to an excused absence, it is the responsibility of the student to contact me to negotiate an appropriate alternative due-date. Coming to class unprepared because you were absent is not always excusable, because students and parents all should have access to current assignments on RenWeb.

Behavioral and Classroom Expectations

- Be in the classroom PRIOR TO the tardy bell.
- Come to class PREPARED and ready to learn.

- DO NOT talk while the teacher or another student is speaking.
- No food or drinks are permitted in class, with the exception of water. The privilege of chewing gum in class will be revoked if it becomes an interruption to others or becomes a trash problem or any other kind of problem.
- DO NOT pack up your things before the bell rings, unless advised to do so.
- At the end of each class period, it is YOUR responsibility to ensure that your workspace is left in order – desk is to be returned to original location, books picked up off the floor, and any borrowed materials (art supplies etc...) returned to their proper location.
- Pick up after yourself – and others. Our classroom (and our school) is a place we need to take pride in. If you see trash, pick it up. If something is out of place, return it to the right place.

Consequences of Misbehavior

- I expect you to act appropriately and maturely. I am not here to pick on you, nor do I have time to nag you unnecessarily. If I give you a direction, I expect you to follow it without argument. Any questions or problems can be discussed privately before or after class. Failure to comply with my direction/instruction/guidance will result in disciplinary action.

Materials you need to bring to class every day

- Yourself (attend class every day)
- Your book –spare copies *will not* be available in my classroom. As juniors in high school, you need to be responsible!!!
 - Failure to bring book to class will result in a \$2.00 fine (per incident).
 - Using another student’s book in class (having to share) because you forgot your book will also result in a \$2.00 fine (per incident).
 - Leaving your textbook in my classroom will result in a \$5.00 fine (per incident). You have a locker that doesn’t charge you rent! I don’t provide free “rental” space in my classroom!
 - Collected fines will be saved with the goal of donating them to charity at the end of the year.
- A pen and a #2 pencil (it can often be helpful to carry a couple of each)
- 3-ring binder with dividers for each of your subjects
- Three-hole punched, college-ruled, lined paper
- Optional (but highly encouraged): student planner/calendar

Major Units of Study

- The Colonial Period
- The War for Independence
- The US, 1783 – 1836
- The Ante-bellum US, and the Civil War and Reconstruction
- From Reconstruction to the Progressive Era
- The Progressive Era to the 1920s
- World War I
- The Great Depression
- World War II
- The Cold War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War
- The Domestic History of the US Since 1945