

American History

Spring 2024



Contact Information:

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Course Overview:

This course examines the formation of the United States of America and the American political system, U.S. territorial growth and social reform, the American Civil War and Reconstruction, and the political, economic, social and cultural development of the United States from the late 1800s to the present. It traces the changing ethnic composition of American society; the movement toward greater civil equality for minorities; and the emergence of the US as a major world power.

The course covers six time periods organized into 14 units. The first time period, [Colonial America, c. 1492-1754](#), is available for self-study. We will begin with the second time period, [Early America, c. 1754-1848](#), and continue to the present.



Mr. Phillips, Spring 2022

1. Colonial America, c. 1492-1754

- **Colonization** surveys establishment and development of European colonies along the Atlantic coast of North America.

2. Early America, c. 1754-1848

- **Revolution** explores the causes and course of the War of Independence from Great Britain.
- **Constitution** examines the creation of the new federal government of the United States of America, and the new nation's early years from Washington's Administration through the War of 1812.
- **Expansion** explores the growth of American nationalism, economic and industrial development, and expansion of political participation. It also surveys social and religious reform movements, westward expansion through the Mexican-American War, and the impact of American slavery.

3. Reconstructing America, c. 1848-1898

- **The Civil War** investigates the issues that led to secession crisis and conflict between the United States and the Confederate States during the American Civil War. It also examines the struggles to rebuild the nation during Reconstruction.
- **The Gilded Age** surveys conflicts between settlers, ranchers, miners, Native Americans, and others during the heyday of the Western Frontier. It also examines the rapid economic and urban development and widespread corruption in the years following the Civil War.

4. Modern America, c. 1898-1945

- **The American Empire** examines the rise of the United States as a new global power, and surveys widespread social, economic, and political reform at the turn of the 20th century.
- **The Great Depression** investigates the prosperity and social changes of the Roaring '20s followed by a catastrophic economic collapse and Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal.
- **The Second World War** examines the United States' role in the fight against Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and Imperial Japan.

5. Cold War America, c. 1945-1991

- **The Early Cold War** follows the United States' global struggle against communist forces in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, China, and Korea. The U.S. also experienced tremendous economic growth as the suburbs sprang up.
- **The Great Society** investigates the turbulent social transformation and political unrest during the Civil Rights Era, and the challenge to mainstream America arose in a powerful counterculture during the Vietnam War.
- **The Late Cold War** explores domestic and foreign challenges the United States faced during the 1970s and 1980s.

6. Contemporary America, c. 1991-Today

- **The Culture Wars** epitomize the political and social polarization between left-wing liberal Democrats and right-wing conservative Republicans.
- **The War on Terror** explores the U.S. response to 9/11, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and domestic terrorism from the Oklahoma City bombing to the U.S. Capitol Insurrection.

Rules and Expectations

1. **Be kind. Act interested. Follow directions.**
2. **Sit only in your assigned seat.**
3. **Polite, civil behavior** is expected! This includes but is not limited to:
 - **Using respectful language.** Profanity, racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, nativist, or other offensive comments will not be tolerated. Public education is open to all members of the public, and everyone is welcome.
 - **Using formal academic English language** when writing, including **proper capitalization, punctuation, and spelling** to ensure your message is communicated effectively.
 - **Truth and Justice are American values.** Use Politifact, Snopes, FactCheck.org, OpenSecrets.org, or other reliable websites to verify facts and form your opinions on reality.
4. Food and drinks are not permitted.
5. Only one individual may use the restroom at a time.
 - a. Students must scan the posted QR code to sign-out.
 - b. Students must leave their phone here to leave the room.
 - c. Students must return, collect their phone, and scan the posted QR code to sign-in.
6. Electronic devices must be put away when the starting bell rings.
 - **Earbuds and headphones are not permitted.** I need to know you can hear me when I speak.
 - Electronics are to be used **for academic purposes only**. Electronics will be confiscated if a student is playing games, watching videos, or otherwise using a device for any purpose other than schoolwork.
7. **Your participation is essential to success!** This means:
 - Read **everything** thoroughly for detail!
 - Adhere to the semester schedule without falling behind or working ahead. Keep up with readings and assignments, study vocabulary, and watch assigned videos.
 - Log into Canvas daily. Complete posted assignments by their deadlines.
 - Check WCPSS email daily. Answer messages within 24 hours or less.
 - Submit work only to Canvas. Assignments that are emailed, shared only on Google Drive, or sent through another app will not be accepted.

Grading Policies

Grading scale:

A: 100-90%
B: 89-80%
C: 79-70%
D: 69-60%
F: 59-0%

Honors category percentages:

- Test/Project - 50%
- Quiz - 25%
- Classwork - 25%

Academic category percentages:

- Test/Project - 40%
- Quiz - 30%
- Classwork -30%

Assignments

1. Assignment submissions are time-stamped digitally. All work is due by 11:59 PM on the assignment due date. Work submitted past midnight is late.

Academic students:

- Late assignments will be accepted for a **maximum of 70%** of the grade they would have received if turned in on time.
- Missing assignments final deadlines for **Academic students:**
Work due **01/25/24-02/23/24** will only be accepted for late credit until **February 23, 2024**.
Work due **02/26/24-04/02/24** will only be accepted for late credit until **April 2, 2024**.
Work due **04/03/24-05/10/24** will only be accepted for late credit until **May 10, 2024**.
Work due **05/13/24-06/03/24** will only be accepted for late credit until **June 03, 2024**.
- Be aware that I only grade late work four times per semester following these final deadlines on 2/23, 4/2, 5/10, and 6/3. Therefore, if you turn something in late after I've already graded that assignment and I've input a zero in PowerSchool and marked it missing, it could possibly be a few weeks before I grade it, but I will get to it before progress reports and report cards go home. If you don't want to have zeroes in the gradebook pulling your grade down in the meantime, simply submit your work on time.

Honors students:

- Late assignments will be accepted for a **maximum of 60%** of the grade they would have received if turned in on time.
 - Missing assignments will only be accepted until **two (2) days after each unit assessment** – on 2/9, 2/19, 3/4, 3/18, 4/2, 4/15, 4/23, 4/30, 5/14, 5/22, and 6/3.
 - Again, once I have input a zero for a missing assignment, I only grade late work shortly before progress reports and report cards go home. So, if you don't want to have zeroes pulling your grade down in the meantime, simply submit your work on time.
2. All assignments are labelled on both the course schedules and the classroom whiteboard as Academic Classwork or Honors Classwork.

While some assignments are for both Academic and Honors students, other assignments are only for Academic students or only for Honors students. Read the schedule and/or whiteboard carefully to make sure you are completing the correct work and are meeting deadlines.

Academic students are exempted from assignments that are only for Honors students. However, if an Academic student opts to complete an Honors assignment, it will be graded and factored into the students' classwork/homework average, and vice-versa if an Honors student completes an Academic assignment that is not required.
 3. Students with a score of 79% or below on a test may retest one time for a **maximum test score of 80%**.
 4. Extra credit will not be offered.

WCPSS Honor Code Policy

Honor Code Policy (4310) states: "Academic honesty is essential to excellence in education and is directly related to the Board's educational objectives for students to promote integrity and self-discipline in students. As all schoolwork is a measure of student performance, academic honesty facilitates an accurate measurement of student learning.

Each student, parent, family and staff member has a responsibility to promote a culture that respects and fosters integrity and honesty. Academic integrity and honesty requires that all stakeholders share responsibility in the fulfillment of this policy.

In fulfilling these responsibilities:

- students will collaborate with their peers to foster a culture of academic integrity; refrain from participating, either directly or indirectly, in any form of cheating or plagiarism; and adhere to the honor code;
- parents and family will actively support the honor code by encouraging their child(ren) to foster and uphold a culture of academic integrity;
- staff will establish and annually teach expectations regarding academic integrity and honesty; and promote the honor code.