

Modern American History (Advanced level)
Course Syllabus

Course Instructor: Mr. Duerring (dduerring@nhvweb.net); 973-713-4199 extension 4476

Textbook: Cayton, Andrew, Elisabeth Israels Perry, et. al, *America: Pathways to the Present*, (Boston, Massachusetts: Prentice Hall, 2007)

In order to minimize the sharing of physical materials, students will have access to digitized chapters of the text throughout the school year.

Purpose(s)/focus of this course:

Students will enhance their knowledge and understanding of United States History by investigating/tracing it from America's response(s)/reaction(s) to the outbreak of the First World War to the beginning of the 21st Century. In addition, students will refine important skills such as: generalizing/analyzing information; interpreting as well as differentiating between primary versus secondary source evidence (oral, written, and visual); evaluating/assessing key decisions and actions on the part of historical participants and eyewitnesses in light of alternatives; identifying/describing "pivotal" and/or "decisive"/"defining" moments in Modern American history; debating major public issues throughout modern American history; reading and listening comprehension (including building upon their content-specific vocabulary); and drawing/testing conclusions and inferences; etc... Students will also practice research methodologies used by professional historians. This course will address citizenship/civic education, culture, daily life, economics, geography, government, technology, and world events. In addition, this course will follow both a narrative approach (the who, what, when, where of history) as well as an analytical approach (the how and why of history) for the intended purpose of enhancing student appreciation toward the discipline/subject (e.g. to make the subject both interesting and relevant). This course will employ a mixture between a chronological/sequential, thematic, and topical approach that balances depth with breadth. Students will also engage in history by comparing different historical interpretations surrounding key events, figures, and periods as well as whether/how/the extent to which/why those interpretations have changed over time.

Unit Themes and Topics to be covered:

The First World War
The Roaring Twenties
The Great Depression
The New Deal
World War II
The Cold War
Civil Rights and Social Change
Domestic Policies
International Policies
Interconnected Global Society

Classroom Policies and Procedures:

Grading Policy: Grades will be determined using a straight point system. The final grade will be the sum of points earned divided by the total possible points and multiplying the quotient by 100 to determine a percentage average. Below is the letter grade each percentage range is equivalent to:

93-100=A	73-76=C
90-92=A-	70-72=C-
87-89=B+	67-69=D+
83-86=B	64-66=D
80-82=B-	63-Below=F
77-79=C+	

Whether or not “borderline” grades will be adjusted at the end of the year is a privilege and will be exclusively at the teacher’s discretion. Such determination will be made in each individual case and will be based upon merit (e.g. the extent to which assignments/homework were completed, quality of work submitted, effort shown, participation rate, attitude/behavior, etc.). **BORDERLINE GRADES AT THE END OF EACH MARKING PERIOD WILL NOT BE ADJUSTED AS IT RESULTS IN GRADE INFLATION.**

Point values will be determined by the nature, scope, and purpose of each assignment (e.g. homework, project, paper, quiz, test, etc.)

Evaluation: A variety of assessments will be given, including tests, quizzes, individual or group projects, writing assignments, in-class assignments or activities, debates, informal and formal presentations, and homework assignments.

Homework assignments will be assessed on the basis of both correction and completion. Score determination will be communicated in advance of a particular assignment. For full completion credit to be awarded, work must meet my pre-communicated expectations and must be submitted by the assigned due date. For completion-based assignments, any work that is not “completed” may be given partial credit (at the teacher’s discretion) on the basis of quantity and quality. Whether or not late work will be accepted (and to what extent it will be counted/awarded points) is dependent upon the extenuating circumstances as well as the teacher’s discretion. It is the student’s responsibility to collect missing work for completion immediately upon their return from an absence and/or to see the instructor for any missed work in a timely fashion. Students who have been absent from class must also turn in assignments immediately upon their return if it was collected during their absence. Classroom policies regarding make up work following absences will be pursuant to the district policy outlined in the parent/student/teacher handbook. Students will be given 2 days for each day of absence to make up work effective upon their return to school if he/she wishes to receive full credit.

Aspen Codes:

“ABS”- If you see the letters “ABS” for a grade, this means the following:

- Student was not present in class to turn in the assignment or absent when the assignment was given.
- The assignment will be scored as a zero unless/until the assignment is completed/submitted (see policy regarding make up work)

“EXC”-If you see the letters “EXC” for a grade, this means that I have excused/exempted the student from the assignment. The student DOES NOT need to make up the work. This will not help/hurt the student’s overall grade.

“0”-If you see “0” for a grade, this means the student was present in class both when the assignment was given and collected/submitted but simply did not do the assignment (see policy regarding late work).

PLEASE REVIEW THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN THE STUDENT HANDBOOK REGARDING CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES, ATTENDANCE/PUNCTUALITY, PROPER ATTIRE, BEHAVIOR/DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS. THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES CONTAINED IN THE STUDENT HANDBOOK ARE TO BE FOLLOWED AT ALL TIMES BY ALL STUDENTS.

Availability for academic support will be offered by appointment as well as by regular office hours (2:15-3:10) via Google hangout or Zoom meetings: