

# **U.S. HISTORY**

## **TEXT**

History of the United States

Wide variety of primary source materials

## **PREREQUISITES**

11<sup>th</sup> grade standing

## **OBJECTIVES**

Students will study major points in 20<sup>th</sup> Century United States history so as to better understand the world in which they live. Earlier events will be referenced as necessary to understand how the country developed as it did. Connections will be made to understand how earlier events continue to affect us and our personal decisions. While attempting to understand events in the context of the times in which they occurred, students will also be asked to analyze how they might act in a similar set of circumstances.

## **CONTENT**

- Demographics
- Fundamental American Values
- Industrialization and Immigration, including one's own family history
- The Rise of the U.S. as a World Power
- The 1920's
- The Great Depression and the New Deal
- The World Wars
- Post World War II America
- The Development of Civil Rights
- Technological Change and its Effect on Life in the United States

## **SKILLS**

- Reading for content and context
- Drawing inferences from observations
- Locating, selecting and analyzing relevant data
- Distinguishing valid from fallacious arguments
- Identifying bias and prejudice in historical interpretations
- Note taking as a step towards organizing information for writing
- Collecting, evaluating and employing information from multiple sources to construct and test hypotheses
- Expository writing, editing and revising
- Analyzing issues of historical cause and effect complexity

## **METHODS**

- Investigation of primary sources, texts, artifacts and multi-media
- Reading and writing assignments
- Simulations and debates
- Research through texts, multi-media and personal interview
- Lectures, class discussions and presentations
- Formal research papers and projects
- Individual and group assignments and presentations
- Note taking and worksheets
- Construction of timelines and maps

## **HOMEWORK**

- Assignments that are not completed in class
- Formal and informal interviewing to learn family history
- Research projects and papers
- Assigned readings and specific writing assignments
- Test preparation

## **GRADING/CREDIT**

All assigned work must be completed for full credit. Work must be kept organized in a notebook for reference throughout the year.

Grade and credit is based on:

- Participation and completion of class work
- In class note taking, worksheets and activities
- Writing assignments
- In and out of class research projects and papers
- Homework
- Tests

## **INDIVIDUALIZATION**

Research and writing assignments will be tailored as much as possible to account for individual student learning styles and interests while maintaining the expectations of the course. All students are expected to participate in class activities, to attend class regularly and to reach their highest level of understanding.

## **ABSENCES/TARDIES**

Students are responsible for all assignments and tests when they are absent or tardy. As some class work will be difficult to make up, excessive absences and/or tardies will result in loss of credit.