

# Montclair High School

## Course Syllabus

**Department: Social Studies**

**Course: United States History II**

**Level: Academic**

**Credits: 5**

### Course Description:

History is society's memory of where it has been, what it values, and how decisions of the past have contributed to contemporary conditions. History deals with chronological sequences, continuity and change, the multiple causes and effects of historical phenomena, and changing interpretations of the past. This course is a study of the years 1898 to the present. It explores the American expansion overseas, World War I and the Versailles Treaty, international leadership vs. isolationism, the Twenties, the Great Depression and the New Deal. It continues with World War II, and the postwar world and the Cold War, Civil Rights, the counter-culture of the 60s, Vietnam, Watergate, Reaganomics, and concludes with the Age of the Internet and Technology. Appreciation for the pluralistic nature of American society is nurtured. Attention to ethnicity, class, the roles of women, Native Americans, African Americans, and other minorities will be given.

The student taking this course should be a competent reader who likes to spend time reading historical writings, newspapers and magazines. The student must be self-motivated and willing to study an average of approximately three hours a week. The successful student must work to develop skills necessary for college such as note taking, library research and the preparation of research papers as well as expository essays. Since a grasp of facts will be assumed, the student must be able to see relationships and evaluate historical sources so as to render judgments on the facts. This satisfies the second year of the two-year U.S. History requirement

### Standards:

NJCCCS: 6.1.12.A.5.a – 6.1.12.D.16.c RH.11-12.1-10; WHST.11-12.1-10

### Anchor Text(s):

Text Title	Publisher/Author	Year/Edition	ISBN	Text Distribution
The American Nation	Holt, Rinehart, & Winston/ Paul Boyer	2001/ 11 <sup>th</sup> edition	0030664241	Hard copy, Classroom Set

### Supplementary Materials:

Internet activities, educational videos, articles from journals, magazines, and/or newspapers.

### Units of Study:

- I. Intro/Review Material – The Gilded Age and the Triumph of Industrial Capitalism
  - immigration, urbanization, industry, life at the turn-of-the-century
- II. Imperialism and Interventionism

- American expansion and foreign policy in the early 1900s
- III. Progressivism and Its Legacy
  - Progressive Era changes and its impact on activism and social change
- IV. The WWI Era and Its Aftermath
  - U.S. involvement and its impact at home and abroad
- V. Boom: The Roaring '20s and Modern Culture
  - Economics, politics, and culture wars
- VI. Bust: The Great Depression and the New Deal
  - The crash, the depression, various groups' experiences, and government intervention
- VII. The WWII Era and Its Aftermath
  - U.S. involvement and its impact at home and abroad
- VIII. Cold War, Warm Hearth: 1950-1963
  - Eisenhower presidency, JFK foreign policy, domestic anti-communism
- IX. The Modern Civil Rights Movement: ca. 1954 – ca. 1970
  - Leaders, groups, tactics, impact, controversies
- X. Vietnam and the 1960s Explosion
  - New Frontier, Great Society; involvement, escalation, home front, withdrawal
- XI. The Unfinished Journey: Contemporary America, ca. 1975-present
  - Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Clinton, the Bushes, Obama: domestic and foreign policy, globalization

### **Proficiencies:**

By the end of this course, students will:

- Evaluate data from primary and secondary sources and reach justifiable conclusions about historical events.
- Apply geographical themes of location, place, movement, human-environmental interaction, and regions to American history.
- Compare and contrast the credibility of divergent interpretations of an historical event, such as the decision to drop the atomic bombs, in terms of available evidence.
- Analyze the interaction of foreign and domestic policy in a specific time period.
- Identify specific historical terms in service of analyzing events; for example: domino theory, Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, undeclared war, and Vietnamization to discuss aspects of America's involvement in the Vietnam War.
- Develop study skills and habits including skills in gathering, organizing, and using, information to write and speak more effectively.
- Explain the impact of science and technology on the life of Americans in various time periods.
- Analyze how various historians may weigh causal factors differently and why historical interpretations may change over time.
- Recognize examples of the following U.S. policies during different periods in our history: neutrality, isolation, international conflict and international cooperation.
- Write essays, prepare multimedia presentations, and engage in project-based learning activities.
- Explain how the historical development of the United States continues to take place in a global context through the connection between world events and the role of the United States.
- Explore current methods of research, using the computer and use a variety of technologies as tools for learning.

- Constructively collaborate with peers by sharing ideas, examples, and insights productively and responsibly in discussions.
- Constructively collaborate with peers on group work and projects.

**Evaluation & Assessment:**

- Homework 10%
- Tests and Essays 45%
- Quizzes and Classwork 45%