

# 2020–2021 Distance Learning U.S. History CP Syllabus

## Course Overview

U.S. History is a year-long, two semester course required for graduation in California. The course will begin with a selective review of American history emphasizing the nation's beginnings and the industrial transformation of the new nation. The remainder of the course will examine major turning points in American history in the 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

Successful students will take responsibility for their own learning, come prepared each day, ask questions, complete all their assignments, study hard, and won't take shortcuts with their learning.

## Academic Objectives:

- Students will analyze and interpret primary sources, including documentary material, maps, statistical tables, and pictorial and graphic evidence of historical events.
- Students will approach history and current events critically and be able to analyze and evaluate competing sources of historical and current information.
- Students will express themselves with clarity and precision and know how to cite sources and credit the phrases and ideas of others.
- Students will effectively organize, process, and review essential content and skills.

## Student Behavior

In a distance learning class, students are expected to follow basic norms. When class begins, students must mute their microphones. If they have questions, they may use the raise hand emoji or the meeting chat feature. During live instruction and when working in small groups, students should have their video camera on, if possible. At all times, students need to remain engaged and participate appropriately. Additional video meeting norms and expectations are posted on School Wires.

To be successful, students must have their textbook, notebook, and any other materials assigned by the teacher. Additionally, students should try to attend class in a quiet place that allows them to concentrate and work productively during and outside of class.

Punctuality and good attendance are required to succeed in any course, especially in a distance learning situation. Any students who leave class early or disappear during class will be marked truant. Absent students (excused and unexcused, but not truant) will be allowed the same number of days to make up any work missed while absent.

Minor discipline issues will be handled in the following way:

1st time: Verbal warning, possible parent contact.

2nd time: Detention, parent contact, possible referral to administrator.

3rd time: Referral to administrator, parent conference, and possible additional consequences.

More significant discipline issues will be immediately referred to administration.

Cheating is defined as taking credit for work that is not one's own, even if accidental. Any student caught cheating will be given a zero and a possible parent conference. Additional instances will result in parent and administrative conferences and other discipline as suggested by site administration.

## **Grading**

Grades are calculated according to the relative weight of each category, not simply by adding up the points for the class and dividing by the number possible. Final grades are rounded to the nearest whole number. The scale and semester categories are as follows:

**Grading Scale:** A=90–100%, B=80–89%, C=70–79%, D=60–69%, F=0–59%

**Grade Weights:** Assessments = 60%  
Assignments = 40%

**Assessments**—Assessments consist of unit tests, quizzes, essays, and projects. Unit tests will be usually be given every 2-4 chapters. Tests may consist of multiple choice, matching, short answer, and essay questions. Students who know they will be absent on the day of a test must inform the instructor several days prior to arrange an alternate time. Otherwise, they may receive a make-up test which could be more difficult than the original, missed unit test. One or more projects will be assigned each semester. Possible examples include historical debates, power point presentations, counterfactual activities, historical simulations, etc. Projects may usually require a significant amount of research and preparation outside of class. Reading quizzes and essays may be occasionally used to assess student leaning.

**Assignments**—Students will be given a variety of instructional activities to complete during each unit to help them understand the content and practice the skill necessary for success in this course. Many assignments may done in class as collaborative activities. However, some will be individual assignments that must be completed for homework. Students who are absent or have Renaissance cards may turn in late work in accordance with the respective policies of those programs. Otherwise, late work is not generally accepted except in extreme circumstances.

**Extra Credit**—Students should not expect much, if any, extra credit in this course. Any extra credit that is offered will likely be minimal and will be offered to all students equally.

**Disclaimer**—Due to the unknown variables in a distance learning environment, it may become necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus. If so, students will be given as much advanced notice as possible.

I have read, understood, and will abide by the provisions of this 2020-21 DL US History syllabus.

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(student name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(period)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(student signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(parent signature)