

2023–24 U.S. History 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 20th and early 21st 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

Students are expected to follow the 3 B's (Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible) for this class. The 3 B's matrix is posted on our website and in our Google Classroom.

To be successful, students must bring their fully charged Chromebook, notebook, and any other materials assigned by the teacher. Textbooks only need to be brought to class when announced by the teacher in advance.

Punctuality and good attendance are required to succeed in any course. Absent students (excused and unexcused, but not missing or 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.

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%

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.

Assessments—Assessments consist of unit tests, quizzes, essays, and projects. Unit tests will usually be given every two 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. Reading quizzes and essays may be occasionally used to assess student learning.

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 be done in class as collaborative activities. However, some will be individual assignments that must be completed for homework. Students who are absent may turn in late work in accordance with the district’s attendance policy for full credit. Late work may be granted half credit if submitted by final day of the unit. No late work will be accepted after a chapter/unit exam and no credit will be given for assignments that are submitted as more than one document (a set of images), links without access, formatted sideways, or illegible or difficult to read.

Contact—Students or parents may contact me via email at matthew_ellington@chino.k12.ca.us, Aeries Parent Square, or Google Classroom message. I will respond to any contact within 48 school hours.

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 unforeseen circumstances, it may become necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus. If so, students and parents will be given as much advanced notice as possible.

I have read, understood, and will abide by the provisions of this 2023–24 US History syllabus and the 3 B’s behavioral matrix. Note that student and parent signatures must be signed in ink and scanned. Typed or digital signatures will not be accepted.

(student name)

(period)

(student signature)

(parent signature)