

United States History, Society and Culture: 1945-Present

This half-year course will be an examination of the major political, economic, cultural, and social developments in the United States from the end of World War II to the Present. Special attention will be paid to how media such as film, television, and more recently, the internet have both reported on and shaped issues and events during the past 60 years. The following themes and issues will be considered in depth: the American Dream, Prosperity and Poverty; War, Patriotism and Dissent; the Culture Wars; the struggle of various groups for social and economic justice; technological change and its impact.

The course will be divided into four units of study.

- I. Affluence and Anxiety in Post-war America (1945-1960)
- II. The 1960s and the Culture Wars
- III. Crisis of Confidence and the Resurgence of Conservatism during the 1970's and 80's.
- IV. Affluence, Anxiety, and the Culture Wars, 1992-present

TEXTS AND RESOURCES:

Primary source readings, on-line sources and other resources will be distributed throughout the course of the semester.

GRADING:

Your grade in this course will be based on the following:

1. Exams (one per unit)
2. Papers/projects (at least one per marking period)
3. Assigned readings
4. Class attendance and participation

ATTENDANCE AND MAKE UP WORK:

As part of your grade rests on classroom involvement, it is important that you make an honest effort to be in class, on time, everyday. For times that it becomes necessary to be out of class, or tardy to class, please follow the following school rules:

1. Should you have a prearranged absence, it is your responsibility to consult with Your teacher before you are absent from class.
2. All make up work should be completed within one calendar week.
3. Since you are responsible for being prepared for class each day, it is strongly advised that you get the phone number of someone in your class in order to inquire about work missed during your absence. If a quiz occurs on the day that you return, you are responsible for taking it.

ATTENDANCE PHILOSOPHY:

Regular attendance and punctuality are expected. Cutting is not permitted. If you intentionally absent yourself from a class without a legitimate reason you will not be entitled to make up any assignments or exams missed during that period.

Intentional absences are a clear message that you are not interested in doing your best. Excessive illegal absence or any cutting will result in parental notification and will have a negative impact on how your class participation will be factored into your quarter and final grades.

RULES FOR TARDINESS:

1. It is your responsibility to bring a pass if you are tardy to class.
2. Your teacher will determine procedures for unexcused lateness.
3. The student is reminded that participation and effort are considered a vital part of the final grade. Chronic tardiness to class will be dealt with according to school policy.

EXTRA HELP:

The regular help day is WEDNESDAY. When necessary, other arrangements will be made.

PLAGIARISM STATEMENT:

Plagiarism is defined as presenting the thoughts, writings, and ideas of other people as your own. Integrity of the academic process requires that credit be given where credit is due. Accordingly, it is unethical to present as one's own work, the ideas, representations, or words of another or to permit another present one's own work without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources.