

Vision Charter School

Syllabus for United States History 2017/2018 School Year

Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.
Theodore Roosevelt

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Course Description

During the first semester, we will study United States history from its beginning to the Civil War. An emphasis will be placed on tracing the development of the American political system, economic institutions, and the U.S. culture during the Colonial Period, the Age of Revolution, the National Era, the Jacksonian Period, and the Civil War. During the second semester we will study reconstruction of the South, settlement of the Western United States, the rise of American power, World War I, the Roaring 20's, the Stock Market Crash and the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the struggle for Civil Rights, and the modern era.

Pre-requisites: None

Course Objectives

This course will provide a basic understanding of the heritage of our nation's history. The course will:

1. Assess the impact of the contact and the interchange between the New and Old Worlds.
2. Trace the patterns of settlement and the social, political, and economic developments in colonial North America.
3. Analyze the factors leading to the American Revolution. Describe the events of the Revolution and its impact upon the people who lived through it.
4. Trace the social, political, diplomatic, and economic developments during the Federalist and early Republican periods, 1787-1820.

5. Trace the social, political, and economic developments of the Age of Jackson, 1820-1840. Account for Jackson's popularity and explain how he symbolizes the democratization of American politics.
6. Account for America's westward surge during the 1840s and assess the impact of western expansion.
7. Account for the growing sectionalism in the nation. Explain the outbreak of the Civil War 1861-1865, and trace the major military, political, economic, and social developments of the war.

Outcomes Assessment

Upon course completion, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the major issues in U.S. history.
2. Explain the historic debates and their relevance to today.
3. Identify the major participants in U.S. history.
4. Demonstrate a theoretical understanding of the factors that shape U.S. history.
5. Describe the various critical areas of U.S. history.

Student Expectations:

1. Responsibility:

- Be on time, be prepared, and be ready to learn
- Be responsible for yourself, your materials, and your actions
- Follow all classroom procedures and ask questions if you don't understand

2. Respect:

- Classroom rule #1 Respect yourself, respect other students, respect the teacher, respect the school, and school property.
- Listen to others and they will listen to you.

3. Honesty:

- Build relationships founded on trust, with your teacher and fellow classmates.
- Be honest with everyone, especially yourself!

4. Caring:

- Be kind to everyone!
- Contribute to the learning environment by expressing a caring attitude to everyone.

- Work together to solve your problems, everyone has talents and needs to be involved!

5. Adhere to all Vision Charter School Rules!

- Follow the dress code!
- Electronic devices are allowed only at my discretion. Do not “hide” your device, it will be assumed you are using it inappropriately and it will be confiscated. When I ask the class to put them away, they should be put in pockets or bags without argument. If you have your device confiscated it will be given to the office at the end of the day and your parents will have to get them. You will also lose the privilege of using electronic devices for the rest of the semester.
- Clean up your mess!

Classroom Procedures:

1. Starting Class:

- Be on time and be prepared to begin SSR.
- If you need to get my attention, raise your hand and wait patiently, please do not interrupt me or another student.

2. End of Class:

- Make sure you have all of your assignments written down
- Make sure your area is clean
- Turn in all of your work that is due that day.

3. Grades:

- No late work will be accepted!
- Students will have two calendar days for an excused absence to make up work. It is the student’s responsibility to request and turn in make-up work.
- For both middle school and high school transcripts, grades are dependent on semesters, not quarters. Quarters are essentially a progress report grade for the semester. VCS will continue to give quarter grades, but the semester grades will be based on the entire points for the semester instead of an average of the two quarter grades.
- Students will receive one grade report per quarter. It is the student’s responsibility to share reports with parents and/or guardians.

4. SSR Books:

- (Silent Sustained Reading) Reading is an essential aspect of any study of history. Near the beginning of each class we will take 15 to 20 minutes to read a book of your choice from my library, the Newspaper, or a news magazine. At the end of the SSR period, each student will note the book they read, the pages they covered, and write a short summary. Extra credit will be awarded for some of the books!

5. Discipline Procedures:

It is expected that all students will follow the rules of the class and of Vision Charter School. In the case of minor infractions, such as talking too much in class or coming unprepared, etc. the student will receive a warning from the teacher. If the behavior continues, the student will receive lunch time detention. After three lunch time detentions, parents followed by school administration. In the case of serious offenses, such as bullying, harassment, fighting etc. the student will be referred to school administration

To the Parents/Guardians:

Effective communication between guardians and teacher is an essential aspect of student success. I will make it a point to keep up regular communication, especially if your student begins to struggle. If you have any questions, the most effective way to get a hold of me is through e-mail. My e-mail address is kurtscheffler@cwidaho.cc you may also reach me at the school, by phone, on most school days between 7:45 and 5:00.

Please fill out and remove the following section and give it to your student to return to me.

How do you prefer to be contacted (circle one)?

Phone or Mail

Phone # _____ E:mail address: _____

I have read the syllabus with my student and I understand the classroom policies and procedures:

Guardian
Signature _____ *Date:* _____

