

**United States History Course Syllabus
Murrieta Mesa High School 2011–2012**

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Course Study:

Students in grade eleven study major turning points that shaped the United States, from before the founding of The United States through the present, including the cause and course of the two world wars. They trace the rise of democratic ideas and develop an understanding of the historical roots of current world issues, especially as they pertain to The United States. They extrapolate from the American experience that democratic ideals are often achieved at a high price, remain vulnerable and are not practiced everywhere in the world. Students develop an understanding of current world issues and relate them to their historical, geographic, political, economic, and cultural contexts. Students consider multiple accounts of events in order to understand The United States from a variety of perspectives. (CA State Standard for Teaching)

Course Goals:

This United States History class has two primary goals: to prepare students for state and district wide exams, and to make students perceptive and informed members of society. Students are expected to know more than just when an event happened; they will also know how and why it was significant.

Textbook:

America's Journey Continuity and Change in the Twentieth Century, 2006

Major Units of Study:

(Tentative Schedule – Subject to Change)

Fall Semester: A New South, Industrial Revolution, Immigrants & Urbanization, The Progressive Era, Imperialism, WWI; Review and Semester 1 Final

Spring Semester: The Roaring 20's, The Great Depression, The New Deal; Pre-WWII, WWII; Cold War & Fall of USSR, Post War Boom, Civil Rights, The Vietnam War, An Era of Social Change; Review and Semester 2 Final

Grading Scale:

100%–90%	A
89%–80%	B
79%–70%	C
69%–60%	D
59%–0	F

In order to receive high school credit (for graduation), you need to earn a D or higher.

However, universities will only acknowledge credit for a class with a passing grade of C or higher.

Grading:

Weighted categories:

- Chapter Work 25%
- Quizzes 20%
- Assessments 40%
- Projects 15%

Grades will be posted every few weeks in class; additionally, students can track their progress online.

Attendance / Promptness:

Students are expected to be in their seats prior to the bell, and begin the daily warm-up activity immediately. In addition to the school's policies regarding tardies, students who are late and do not have an excused note, will lose participation points for the semester.

Make-up Work:

- **Late** assignments (unless the student has an excused absence) may be turned in within one class meeting of the due date for half the points that would have been earned if the assignment would have been completed on time. All other late work is accepted only up until we begin a new chapter.
- If you have an **excused** absence, you must submit make-up work within one day of your return from the absence to avoid the late penalty.
- Tests and quizzes may be made up only following an excused absence, and must be completed during a time designated by the teacher

Bathroom Passes:

It is the policy of MMHS that passes are used for emergency bathroom use only. It is to the teacher's discretion if/when a school pass will be issued to a student. Students need to learn how to prioritize their time outside of the classroom.

Cell Phones & Electronic Devices:

There will be absolutely no cell phone usage in the classroom. All cell phones will be turned off and put away while in the classroom; cell phones will be confiscated if they are visible or are in use. If a parent needs to get in touch with a student, the parent can contact the office and a message can be delivered to the classroom. No electronic devices are permitted. If a student is listening to music or playing a game, the device will be confiscated. School rules display the following consequences for electronic devices: First offense—warning; Second offense—device is taken for the remainder of the day, the student may pick it up in his/her counselor's office after school; Third offense – Saturday School, and the device will be given back to the parent; Fourth Offense– two day suspension, and the device will be given back to the parents at the end of the semester.

Food & Drinks:

In compliance with MMHS Code of Conduct, food and drinks are not permitted in the classroom. Only bottled water that is capped will be permitted. Coffee drinks, sodas, and food will be properly disposed in the trash can upon entry into the classroom.

Supplies / Format Requirements:

Students are required by MMHS to come to class prepared to learn. To be prepared for this class, it is suggested that all students bring a pen and pencil, college-ruled paper, and a 3-ring binder.

Classroom Guidelines:

Together, we will make this class a positive learning experience!

1. **RESPECT** and be polite to all people and their belongings
2. Bring all needed materials to class
3. Be in your seat and ready to be enlightened when the bell rings
4. Follow all school rules

Citizenship:

The moment students walk into the classroom, the highest standards for good citizenship are expected of them. These standards can be summed up with one word: RESPECT. Students

should exhibit respect for the teacher, their fellow classmates, the classroom, and most importantly themselves in all they do and say. While it entails a great deal, it primarily means you attempt to do the right thing at all times. This applies especially to **respecting the right of the teacher to do the best job possible teaching you and the right of other students to learn in the best possible environment**. Additionally, students must follow the specific rules/ consequences and procedures as outlined.

Academic Integrity:

As a high school student, you are held to a high standard of achievement and integrity. You are expected to act as such. Any student who plagiarizes, lies, cheats, or otherwise misuses the academic environment, or other students', or their work, will be suspended per district policy. The grade for the assignment(s) or test(s) in question will be converted to an F.

Disciplinary Actions:

You are all on the verge of becoming self-reliant and responsible adults. I expect you to act as such. Every student has the right to learn and every teacher has the right to teach; disrespectful/disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. If you make the choice to misbehave, then you choose to have a consequence.

- 1st offense= verbal warning
- 2nd offense= removal from class and parent phone call
- 3rd offense= referral and class suspension
- Also: **DO NOT BE TARDY!!!!**

Parent/guardian and Student Contact:

Please feel free to contact me at any time. My contact information is listed at the top of this document. E-mail is the best way to communicate with me, but feel free to call and leave a message. Keep this syllabus with you in class all year in the front of your binder.