US History through Industrialism

Mr. Waller
2026-2027

Introduction

Welcome to your Middle School US History class! This syllabus, or class description, contains a summary of the class this year--class expectations and procedures, what units we will cover, assignments you will have, and how you will be graded.

Course Title US History through Industrialism	**Term** Fall 2026-Spring 2027
Instructor Timmy Waller	**Term Dates and Class Time** 9/1/2026 – 6/15/2027 4th Period: M-F, 10:58-11:48
Instructor Email t.waller@tlschool.net	**School Phone Number** 509-395-2571
Office Hour/availability Monday to Friday, 6th period (1:22-2:12) plus by appointment	
Textbook and/or other required materials: *A More Perfect Union* by HMH (1999) provided by the school. Chromebook (provided by the school) A binder or folder with spots that we can put tests/quizzes, worksheets, and any other projects	

Description

In this class, we will be covering the history of the United States from before Europeans arrival through the Industrial Revolution. We will be finding the answers to questions about our geography, ancestors, differing perspectives, and government among others. We will learn what makes America an amazing place and areas of struggle in our past and present.

Course Goals and Learner Outcomes

- Gain a basic understanding of major moments in United States History
- Understand how the past has shaped America into what we are today
- Understand the successes and failures of the US in the past and consider how we can avoid similar issues in the future
- Develop our knowledge of United States and North American geography

Class Expectations

1. Be on time, prepared for class with any knowledge, homework, or assignments
2. Participate in class discussions and activities
3. Actively listen to teacher during lecture portions
4. Think deeply and do your best in course work
5. Be respectful towards both me as your teacher and towards your classmates

Cell Phone Policy

We will be following the new school policy for cell phones in that they shouldn't be used from the start to the end of the school day. Because your phone should not be on your person, if you are using your phone for any reason in class, it will be taken to the office every time and a referral written. This is intended to be a helpful and not punitive policy so we can learn best, avoid distraction, and be present in our classes and with each other.

Attendance Policy

I expect you to be in class unless you have a valid reason to not be. You need to follow the school attendance policy as listed in the handbook. In terms of classwork, if you miss class, you won't receive credit for what we did in class that day unless you complete it on your own. You will need to check in with me through email or check in with another student to see what you missed and need to make up.

Work policy (make up, extra credit, late, etc.)

For written assignments, to receive credit for an assignment the student must have the assignment completed and in class when it is due. If you are gone on the day it is due, you should have it done the next day you are in class unless you have communicated with me. Assignments will be accepted up to 3 days late and will be assessed a penalty of a 10% deduction per day. If there are extraneous circumstances, please communicate well with me and we can adjust the due date if needed.

Grading

Grading will be based on a points accumulation system. At any time during the semester, your grade will be determined by dividing the points you have earned by all the points possible to earn. Several different types of points will be awarded.

- Participation (typically 5 pts per day or every other day--typically awarded when there isn't a tangible assignment)--will be earned on a weekly basis for participation in class activities
- Classwork/Homework (typically 5 pts for a classwork assignment that takes one day--may take the place of participation)--reading, worksheets, and small assignments that will be due within a day or two
- Weekly Geography (typically 5-10 pts for weekly participation in addition to the quizzes)--We will be doing geography warm-ups every day with bigger projects scattered throughout
- Papers/Presentations/Projects--will be awarded points based off size, time, and length of project (typically in the 20-40 pt range)
- Research Paper (50-75 pt range)--I hope to do a 3-5 page research paper on topic of your choice
- Quizzes/Tests (quizzes are typically in the 10-20 pt range, tests in the 40-60 pt range)--written assessments over information

Academic Integrity

For all written work in this class, you need to follow the school handbooks guidelines on plagiarism and AI. Specifically for my classes, I will follow the below steps if I have found you have plagiarized or used AI to complete an assignment. I simply want your work to be your work, I would much rather less-than-perfect work that is your own thought than polished work that is not yours.

1. The first offense will result in a zero on the assignment, a conversation with me, and an opportunity to redo the assignment with a minimum 10% grade deduction.
2. The second offense will result in a zero on the assignment, a conversation with me, and an opportunity to redo the assignment with a minimum 50% grade deduction. The office and parents will also be notified.
3. The third offense will result in a zero on the assignment, a conversation with me, and no opportunity to redo. The office and parents will also be notified and there may be potential loss of credit as decided by school policy.

For class activity work and group projects, I expect you guys to be honest about what you have done. I might have you redo class activity or group assignments individually if you didn't contribute to the group assignment. Please only share notes with each other with permission from me. If you have copied someone else's notes word for word, I will follow the plagiarism guidelines above.

Course Outline

- Unit 1: Geography of America from Past to Present--*How has the physical geography of the United States impacted its history? How did the regional geography of the US influence Native American tribes' culture?*
- Unit 2: Colonial Life and the American Revolution--*How can we view life in the colonies and the American Revolution from multiple perspectives?*
- Unit 3: The Constitution in a New Nation--*How does the Constitution shape our lives today?*
- Unit 4: Manifest Destiny in a Growing Nation--*What were the pros and cons and outcomes of Manifest Destiny?*
- Unit 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction--*To what degree did the Civil War create a more perfect Union? Were there any alternatives to the Civil War that could have ended slavery?*
- Unit 6: The Industrial Revolution and Progressive Era--*What were some long term pros and cons of the Industrial Revolution? Did the Progressives go far enough or too far in reforming the US?*