



Southern Lehigh School District

High School Syllabus

US Cultures: 1850 to Present 2012-2013

Course Description:

10th Grade United States Cultures explores United States' history and culture from the onset of the Civil War through the dawn of the 21st Century. This course examines the major political, cultural, economic and social themes and events that have shaped our nation's growth and development during this time period.

Course Content:

This course is taught thematically. Thematic teaching better enables our students to connect events over time and construct knowledge to realize a "big picture" of our history. As students understand the greater historical narrative they begin to look for patterns, trends and flows over time. This long look at history invites the student into the story. This approach encourages students to consider historical patterns unfolding in the now and make predictions for the future.

First Semester:

Unit One: The American Identity/Immigration in America

Unit Two: The Fight for Equality/Civil Rights

Unit Three: America's Emergence and Growth as an Economic Power

Unit Four: The American Dream

Second Semester:

Unit One: American Cultural Identity

Unit Two: American Foreign Policy and the Responsibility of Global Leadership

Unit Three: American Leadership and the Presidency

Unit Four: What If?

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

The Americans. McDougal Littell, 2005.

Course Requirements:

It is our hope that thematic teaching addresses American history and culture in a way that allows students to apply beyond the classroom, beyond the textbooks, and beyond the boredom that many students attribute to history class. Our struggles as a nation require a populace that is engaged and informed. Our hope is that thematic teaching in United States Cultures moves us closer to that goal. Instructional units will require students to acquire information concerning major areas of American history and culture to successfully complete projects, essays/papers, tests, quizzes and class assignments. Students will need to understand the impact of immigration, the fight for equality for all members of society, and the growth of America as a world economic and political power. They will be further asked to apply such knowledge to the continuum of the “American Dream” and our role in the world today. US Cultures 1850 to the Present will require students to analyze the past, synthesize new information, and critically apply knowledge to the present.

Grade Components/Assessments:

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student’s overall grade. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of a student’s overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
Midterm	10%
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
Final	10%

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

There are no summer reading assignments for this course.