



Southern Lehigh School District

High School Syllabus

United States Cultures: 1850 to the Present 2014-2015

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 flow 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 Civil War & the shaping of the Modern United States

Unit Two: Minorities in America & their search for the American Dream

Part 1: African Americans & Civil Rights

Part 2: Native Americans

Part 3: European Immigrants

Part 4: Asians in American Society

Part 5: Women and the Battle for Equality

Second Semester:

Unit One: Foreign Policy: America becomes a World Power

Unit Two: The Rise and Influence of Popular Culture in America.

Unit Three: Economics: Becoming the Wealthiest Nation on Earth.

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:

Summative Assessments: 60%

Homework: 30%

In-class assignments: 10%

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

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

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

There is no summer reading assignment for this course.