

United States History I Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Sarah Voran

Email: svoran@lccs.cc

Course Description

United States History studies Federalism through the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era. Students develop a basic understanding of the unique American culture developed through the arts and literature of the day. The course examines sectional philosophies through a review of colonial development, while learning the direct causes and effects that led to the tragic American Civil War. Students utilize textbook, literature, art, research projects, video, artifacts, field trips, and student presentations.

Course Goals

- Promote understanding of God's hand throughout history.
 - Encourage deep thinking and an appreciation for the importance of history.
 - Build verbal and written communication skills.
 - Seek mastery instead of memorization.
 - Understand the causes and effects of successes and setbacks of US history between 1776 and 1877.
-

Mission Connection

LCCS exists to glorify God as a community of faith and learning dedicated to forming disciples of Jesus Christ, pursuing goodness, truth, and beauty, cultivating wisdom and virtue, and furthering the highest ideals and practices of human flourishing. This course supports the LCCS mission by demonstrating how God's hand is visible throughout all of history and by encouraging students to think deeply about historical events and their impact on their lives today. It also supports the mission by building a wide variety of healthy communication skills through projects both big and small.

Textbook and Required Materials

Textbook: *The American Journey*, Early Years: Glencoe 2009

Textbook remains at school the majority of the year.

Required Materials:

- A 1.5", 3 ring binder with your name and the class on the cover and spine
- Loose-leaf notebook paper or a hole punched spiral notebook.
- A hole punched pocket folder (plastic is best but not required)
- Writing utensils

Optional Materials: (these are required if you or your student is concerned about using shared materials. All shared materials are sanitized between uses.)

- Washable markers,

- highlighter
 - pair of scissors
 - black permanent marker
-

Classroom Procedures

On the First Day of School

Please bring the following items to class during the first week of school for participation points (and daily thereafter):

- A 1", 3 ring binder with your name and the class on the cover and spine or a dedicated section in a larger binder.
- Loose-leaf notebook paper or a hole punched spiral notebook.
- A hole punched pocket folder (plastic is best but not required)
- Writing utensils

Please also bring your own washable markers and scissors if you are concerned about using shared materials.

Always bring at least one pen and one pencil to class. I will let the students know ahead of time if they need to bring other items. Having a highlighter and a permanent black marker can be helpful.

On our first day together, I will be going over this syllabus. If time allows, you will have time to start the student contact information sheet. You will be assigned finishing that sheet as part of your homework if we do not have time in class.

If you did not receive a middle school welcome packet in the mail and you are a new student, please let me know during the first week of school.

Starting the Day

Upon entering my class, students are expected to take their seats. They may chat with their neighbor until class begins. I will always signal that I am ready to start class by greeting my students while standing front and center in the classroom. At this point, I expect students to be attentively listening to any announcements and to share in a prayer with me to start our time together.

Dismissal

Once I am done with instruction, please check the list on the door to make sure you have done all that is required of you. You may not pack up your books until one minute before dismissal time. Always remain seated until I dismiss you. Lining up at the door is not permitted as it presents a significant safety hazard should an emergency arise as well as the unfortunate opportunity for bullying to occur out of my sight.

Notebooks

Please keep all papers I give you in your binder until I tell you to take them out. Each page in each unit will be numbered. I will conduct graded notebook checks several times a year. You will have one day's notice before these checks occur. After notebook checks, keep those papers in a folder at home! Do not throw anything away until the end of the year.

Personal Care

Hairbrushes, combs, makeup of any kind and any and all sprays and perfumes may not be used in my room. I will be particularly strict about sprays/perfumes because of potential allergies to ingredients or asthma. Please take care of these primping needs in the bathroom before class. Please do not play with the hair of the person in front of you.

Classroom Expectations (Student Learning Agreement)

God has created us each uniquely. He has also created us to worship Him with our efforts in everything that we do. Seeking to perform at the highest level of excellence is an act of worship to our Creator. As such, I agree to the following:

- I will be **ON TIME** for all classes every day.
I understand that a total of three unexcused tardies to any and all of my classes will result in an immediate before or after-school detention.
- I will be **PREPARED** for class every day.
I will have a writing utensil, paper, my textbook, and any other necessary resources for success in the classroom. Not being prepared for class may result in a deduction of points from my class participation grade.
- I will **COMPLETE** all assignments on time.
I understand that late assignments will result in a deduction of 10% of the assignment grade *per day* that the assignment is late up to 50%. After 5 days, the grade becomes a zero for the assignment. Late work will not be accepted for credit but may still be required to be completed.
- I will **RESPECT** my instructor(s), any LCCS staff member, volunteer(s), classmates, and other students in other grades.
Profanity, rude gestures, cruel teasing or put downs will not be tolerated. Such behavior(s) will first be addressed and managed by the instructor. If such behavior(s) continue students may be referred to the Dean of Students.
- I will keep my **CELL PHONE OFF** and away at all times during the school day (8 am-3:10 pm).
I understand that if my cell phone is visible or on, the instructor will confiscate the device and the Student Handbook Cell Phone Policy will be followed.

These expectations below are in addition to the Student Learning Agreement. Please consult both items in order to best understand what is expected of you and what you can expect from me.

Classroom Priorities

1. Belong to Christ
2. Be Kind and Helpful
3. Be responsible, respectful, and reverent
4. Become exceptional
5. Be Bold

Consistently demonstrating these classroom priorities earns rewards for each class. All behaviors, good and bad, are a choice. Unfortunately, at times, students do make poor choices, which is why the process below is included in this syllabus.

Misbehavior

Discipline: To instruct and govern; to teach rules and practice, and accustom to order and subordination (Noah Webster 1828). Discipline is done in the classroom as necessary to maintain a

safe, orderly and conducive-to-learning environment for all students. Students whose behavior is deemed by the teacher to be disrespectful and/or disruptive to the teaching and learning processes by any means will serve the following consequences:

- 1st offense – verbal warning. (seating may be changed)
- 2nd offense – The student will have a meeting with Mrs. Voran and parents will be contacted.
- 3rd offense – The student will be given a detention and be referred to the Dean of Students.

Students removed from class due to disciplinary problems are responsible to acquire any missed work or notes.

Proverbs 12:1 "To learn, you must love discipline. It is stupid to hate correction"(See also Hebrews 12:11)

Miscellaneous Behavior Notes

- Stay awake during class – Sleeping or putting your head down at any time will result in disciplinary action.
- Behave like the young adult that you are and keep all of your body parts to yourself and do not disturb anyone else's belongings.
- **No projectiles of any kind.** (eg: Throwing balled up paper at the trash can from across the room)
- If another teacher catches you doing my homework during their class, I will not count that work for any credit. If I catch you doing another teacher's work in my class, I will confiscate it and turn it in to the teacher for whatever grade they want to give the assignment. If another teacher catches you doing my work in their class, you will get a zero on that assignment.
- The only thing on your desk while I am teaching should be your notes sheet (clipped into your notebook is fine) and something to write with. Everything else should be on the floor or in the basket under your desk. Doing other things during class is not acceptable and you will receive consequences for it

Leaving During Class

You may only leave the classroom to use the restroom/get a drink etc. if you have asked me first and if I have given you permission. Passes are always required when leaving the room. Take the proper pass and sign out in the notebook before leaving. You may not go during the middle of a lesson/lecture or group activity. You may not go during an individual activity unless it is an emergency. Please try to do what you need to before you come to class. I value my time with you very highly and I ask that you respect our precious time together. If the pass you need is already in use, you may not leave the room. If you ask to use the restroom during class transition time, I will permit you to go without a pass and I will not count you late unless you arrive back more than 2 minutes after class begins. If you feel you may need longer to 'do your business' please discretely let me know. I will expect you back no more than 5 minutes after class begins. Any permitted breaks during class must be completed in approximately 8 or fewer minutes. Breaks between periods in our block of time should be completed between the bells.

If you do need to use the restroom or get a drink, please ask me for a pass. Write where you are going and the time you left the classroom on it and I will sign it.

Discipline: To instruct and govern; to teach rules and practice, and accustom to order and subordination (Noah Webster 1828). Discipline is done in the classroom as necessary to maintain a

safe, orderly and conducive-to-learning environment for all students. Students whose behavior is deemed by the teacher to be disrespectful and/or disruptive to the teaching and learning processes by any means will serve the following consequences:

- 1st offense – verbal warning. (seating may be changed)
- 2nd offense – The student will have a meeting with the instructor, and parent(s) will be contacted.
- 3rd offense – The student will be given a detention and be referred to the Dean of Students.

Students removed from class due to disciplinary problems are responsible to acquire any missed work or notes.

Course Outline

1st Quarter

Unit 1 – Review of Early America to 1789

Unit 2 – Launching a Republic

- Chapter 8 – The Federalist Era
- Chapter 9 – The Jefferson Era
- Chapter 10 – Growth and Expansion

2nd Quarter

Finish Growth and Expansion

Unit 3 – Nationalism

- Chapter 11 – The Jackson Era
- Chapter 12 – Manifest Destiny

3rd Quarter

Unit 4 – Sectionalism and Prelude to War

- Chapter 13 – North and South
- Chapter 14 – Age of Reform

4th Quarter

Unit 5 – The Civil War and Reconstruction

- Chapter 15 – Moving Toward War
- Chapter 16 – The Civil War
- Chapter 17 – Reconstruction and the New South

Gettysburg Trip in May

Major Assignments

- Guidebook to the West Project (Q2 and 3)
 - Civil War Research Project (Q4)
-

Homework

All assignments must be completed in pencil, black ink or be typed. Any assignment submitted in colored ink will lose 50% credit automatically. All assignments must be turned in on a full sheet of paper (no notecards, sticky notes, or cut pieces of paper unless I specifically ask for it.)

You will have four different types of assignments in this class. They are listed below.

Homework – You may start this in class sometimes, but the bulk of it will be completed at home. This will be due the next day unless otherwise noted. I will assign homework 1-4 times per week.

Homework will be graded on the scale below:

Full Credit - Complete **and** followed directions

Half Credit – More than half complete **and** followed directions

No Credit –Less than half complete and/or **did not follow directions**

Please see the section on late work for more information on penalties

Late homework will not be accepted for full credit unless you were absent from school for the entire day. If you miss my class for an appointment or any other reason that only removes you from school for part of the day, you still must submit your homework the day it is due. If you know you will be missing class for any other reason, please make arrangements with me to get work at least one school day in advance. (I require at least 5 days' notice for pre-planned absences longer than one day and 10 days' notice for absences longer than three days. Do not rely on the school office to notify me. You must do it yourself.)

If your homework doesn't have your name on it the first quarter, I'll write "NAME?" on it in big letters and return it to you. No grade penalty in the first quarter. In the second quarter, you will lose 10% of the value of the homework assignment. If your homework doesn't have your name on it in the third marking period, you will lose ½ of the value of the homework assignment. If your homework is missing your name in the fourth quarter, you will receive a zero on the assignment. Keep this in mind! I will typically remind you to label your assignments before you turn them in.

If a teacher catches you doing my homework in their class, you will receive a zero. Home work should be done at home or in AWP.

Everything I give you will be graded in some way. It is always worth points.

If you are present when an assignment is given, it is due the day you return to school. If you are present when a test is announced, you will take it the day you return to school – extended absence will be taken into consideration IF you discuss it with me before you leave or immediately upon your return if you are absent due to illness.

Assessments

Tests/Quizzes– These will *mostly* be completed in class. They will typically cover only a single unit or chapter. If we did not cover a topic in class notes, homework or class work, do not expect it to be on the test unless I specifically tell you otherwise. They will have a variety of questions including multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, short answer and essay. They will always be announced.

Talking/noise making during tests, even if you no longer have a test on your desk, will result in a zero. This is a zero tolerance policy. If your behavior continues after receipt of the zero, you will be referred to the office for cheating and defiance. See above for more information on what constitutes cheating. We will also sometimes have pretests before the start of a unit or chapter. These will be for a completion grade only. They are to help me evaluate your previous knowledge of the subjects we are about to cover. Please do not use your books, the internet, or other people to help with these pretests so I am able to get a true idea of your previous knowledge.

Test Retakes:

NEW IN 2020 – Because we are working for mastery and not memorization, I will allow you to retake any test for any reason but you must meet the following criteria in order to qualify:

- You were present in school and took the test on the day it was originally given. (This is to prevent cheating, be it intentional or unintentional)
- You turned in your study guide on time. (That way, I know you studied the first time.)
- You received a grade lower than the class average (I will let you know the class average when returning tests.)
- You turn in your original test with corrections before retaking the test (no assistance is permitted when making corrections unless it is from me).
- You request and schedule your retake within 36 hours of the test being returned to you.
- Your retake takes place no more than 7 school days after the test was returned.
- You show up to your originally scheduled retake time. (a no-show will remove your ability to retake that test. Two no-shows will remove the ability to retake tests for the remainder of the year).

Test retakes will include the same content, but questions may be scrambled or changed.

Projects – These will be completed in and out of class and will be extended assignments of more than a week (5 School days) in length. Please see the grace day section for some additional information. The no-name policy applies differently on projects. Please consult your rubric for each project for more information.

“Grace Day”Policy

On all projects that extend over a week (5 school days) in length, you will always have one additional day after the due date to turn the assignment in without penalty. This will account for any printer troubles or extenuating circumstances that may have prohibited you from completing your assignment on the original due date. You must email me the assignment [or evidence that it has been completed] by the time class begins or would begin the following day (even if it is a weekend!). In the case of assignments that are not able to be emailed I require photo evidence that the assignment has been completed. ***In order to receive this grace day you must submit your reason to me in writing, explaining exactly why you did not hand it in on the due date and pledging to submit it the following day along with your signature.***

Field Trips

All grades will enjoy a retreat in the spring with costs ranging from \$50 - \$1,000+ (Peru Trip). 8th grade U.S. History I will also enjoy a field trip to Gettysburg, PA. This trip is required and the packet they complete on the trip will be a significant part of their fourth marking period grade. The approximate cost of this trip is \$150 and will cover all expenses except for any souvenir purchases. More information and an exact cost will be sent home about this trip in late March or early April. Only parents or legal guardians are permitted to chaperone school trips. I expect the same behavior on field trips that I expect in school. All rules apply! You are not permitted to use cell phones on field trip without specific permission from me. If you are using any electronic device without permission it will be confiscated. The point of a field trip is to learn and being distracted by a screen will prohibit that process. Cameras and cell phones in airplane mode being used as cameras

are permitted at appropriate times. Please use your best judgment and be aware of signage that indicates photos are prohibited.

Grading Overview

- 40 % Tests/Projects
- 30 % Quizzes/Labs/Minor Projects
- 20 % Homework/Classwork
- 10% Class Participation

Grading Scale

4.0 = A = 93-100	2.0 = C = 73-76
3.7 = A- = 90-92	1.7 = C- = 70-72
3.3 = B+ = 87-89	1.3 = D+ = 67-69
3.0 = B = 83-86	1.0 = D = 63-66
2.7 = B- = 80-82	0.7 = D- = 60-62
2.3 = C+ = 77-79	0 = F = 0-59

When assigning grades, I follow the grading policy outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook. Projects and essays will be graded with a checklist or rubric. You will always have this ahead of time and I will always explain it to you in class to make sure the expectations are clear. Tests/quizzes will be graded on a simple points system. Questions worth more than one point will be noted on the test. If you ever feel that I have been unfair in my grading, I encourage you to talk to me, but please wait 24 hours after receiving your grade to do so. I will do my best to return any graded items to you within one week. Research papers will be returned within four weeks.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be given for going above and beyond on projects and occasionally on tests. I will rarely offer individual extra credit assignments. I will never give extra credit to boost a grade at the end of a marking period. You are not eligible to receive extra credit from individual assignments if you are missing any homework.

Class Participation and Attendance

Classwork – This work will be completed in class. You have to do it when it is assigned in class. If you choose to be off task, you will be disciplined and lose points. This category also includes participation during class.

Your attendance to class is very important. 30% of your grade will be in classwork/class participation and I will always have important instructions regarding your homework. Furthermore, you will be tested on the notes I give you in class.

Class participation looks like paying attention during large group instruction, participating with your group during small group instruction, and working diligently on your own work during individual work time. Class participation also looks like completing opening and closing activities during class and completing classwork activities and in-class projects.

Slug Rule: Once in class, you are expected to have the necessary materials, do the work expected, and put forth the effort to get it done. I do not babysit non-producers. If you do not produce and just sit and waste time you will be disciplined using the process outlined above.

Make-up Work

Makeup/Missed work

Please refer to the school policy on illness and the amount of time you have to makeup work. If you have a short term, pre-planned absence (3 or fewer school days), you must be ready to turn in your work the next day you are in class. Please discuss pre-planned absences with me at least one week before you leave so I can provide you with the work you need.

If you miss work, check the designated folder for your class BEFORE you check with me. I likely set aside what you missed. I will always include instructions for completing the work but it is your responsibility to ask me if you need further clarification. Please do this before or after school or **after** class.

In the event you must make up a test, I will probably send the test home with you. You and your parent must sign the provided form that will attest that you received no aid on the assessment from the internet, your book or any other person. If I am concerned about any dishonesty in this matter, expect to meet with me, a parent and the principal.

If you would like to schedule a time to meet with me to discuss makeup work, please do! I'm happy to help in any way I can. However, if you fail to report to our scheduled makeup time without notice more than twice, I will not reschedule again.

The answer to the question "Did I miss anything?" is always yes. Check with a friend before you check with me. I will gladly provide any missed papers and explain them after class or before or after school. Check the class folder for any handouts you may have missed before asking me.

Contacting Me

Please contact me if you feel the need. My email address is svoran@lccs.cc. Please wait 24 hours before contacting me about any grade. If you are going to be absent for a single day (and know ahead of time) and/or have extenuating circumstance that will cause you to miss an assignment, you must contact me 24 hours (1 Day) in advance to get full credit. ***Always put your initials in the subject line of any email as well as a few words indicating what the email is regarding.*** I will not respond to emails without a subject line indicating what the email is about. Emails sent after 2:30pm will likely not receive a response until the following day. Do not expect a prompt response if you email me before 7:30am or after 2:30pm. If you do wish to meet with me, please contact me to set up an appointment. I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible at other times of day.

Parents, your email addresses are the primary form of communication for us so please give us accurate and updated information. Also, please regularly check your spam folder, especially at the beginning of the year as many email servers direct our messages to you as spam. If you would like to speak on the phone, please email me to set up an appointment. I am not always in my room during the day and I want to be able to connect with you as efficiently as possible.

We will also communicate with your child via their student.lccs.cc email. WE DO NOT COMMUNICATE WITH STUDENTS THROUGH THEIR PERSONAL EMAIL unless they first contact us through that email and even then our response will only be to reply to their email. The Family Portal only allows us to

communicate with students via their assigned school email. Students should check their school email at least once daily.

I will be available to most quickly respond to emails between 10:00 and 10:30 during the school day but this is most important for our 4 day students. I recommend that all 4 day students read over the instructions for their assignments early in the day and contact me with any questions immediately. I have a more tightly scheduled afternoon and I will not be able to response efficiently to questions at other times.

STUDENT: I have read this syllabus and understand what is expected of me.

Signature _____ Date_____

PARENTS: My child has discussed the syllabus with me. I understand it and will support it.

Signature _____ Date_____