

American Studies
Fall 2019 and Spring 2020

Instructor: Christopher Mantei
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Goals of course:

1. To understand intellectual histories of American history.
2. To understand the process of acquiring information through a variety of medias.
3. To analyze various historical documents
4. To create projects, utilizing primary and secondary sources pertaining to American history.

Required software: Danzer, G. A., Klor de Alva, J. J., Krieger, L. S., Wilson, L. E., & Woloch, N. (2012). *The Americans* (Student ed.). Orlando, FL: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Course requirements: *Refer to *Schedule of Topics & Assignments*

Sixteen (16) Projects	150 pts each
Thirty-four (34) Chapter Assessments	40 to 70 pts each
Thirty-nine (39) Essays	100 pts each
Participation	10 pts per day

Please note:

1. There will be no extension unless the student has made arrangements a week ahead of time.
*See *Policies*
2. Extra credit will be available throughout the year. The *Schedule of Topics & Assignments* indicates the allotted time for each unit; therefore, if a student finishes a unit before the deadline, extra 5 points per day. However, the passing grade for all assessments must be $80\% \leq$ to be eligible for extra credit.

Course policies:

- 1) This is a course about the history of America. We will be examining political ideas and ideologies in an academic and secular setting, and as material open to questioning, examination, and interpretation, not moral judgment. An open mind and a willingness to examine new ideas and different perspectives on America is essential. This class is not a forum for expression of personal ideology. Statements of personal ideology convictions, especially at the expense of others' interpretations or opinions, will not be tolerated.
- 2) *Plagiarism* – the presentation of others' work as your own – is an offense punishable according to Willow Creek Handbook. All work submitted in this class must be your own, and all references to ideas from books, articles, or other sources must be cited correctly. If you do not know how to properly reference your work, or you are in doubt whether or not you should cite material, refer to the www.mrmsclasses.com under writing sources. **Anyone found guilty of plagiarism, cheating, forgery, falsification, of**

another form of academic dishonesty will fail the assignment (resulting in a zero) and the incident will be reported to the Principal.

Topics:

Unit 1: *Introduction to Social Science*

Unit 2: *The New World*

Unit 3: *Exploration & Colonization*

Unit 4: *English North America*

Unit 5: *Independence and Republic*

Unit 6: *Confederation & Constitution*

Unit 7: *The New Republic*

Unit 8: *Expansion & Conflict*

Unit 9: *American Life, 1815 - 1860*

Unit 10: *Expansion & Manifest Destiny*

Unit 11: *The Civil War Era, 1857 - 1865*

Unit 12: *Reconstruction, 1865 - 1877*

Unit 13: *The Gilded Age, 1865 - 1900*

Unit 14: *Modern U.S., 1890 - 1920*

Unit 15: *Post-War U.S., 1918 - 1940*

Unit 16: *World War II, 1940 - 1945*

Unit 17: *Post-War U.S., 1945 - 1960*

Unit 18: *American Evolution, 1945 - 1980*

Unit 19: *U.S.: World Power, 1980 - 2007*

Grades: (%)

A = 93 to 100

A- = 90 to 92.9

B+ = 89.9 to 87

B = 86.9 to 83

B- = 82.9 to 80

C+ = 79.9 to 77

C = 76.9 to 73

C- = 72.9 to 70

D+ = 69.9 to 67

D = 66.9 to 63

D- = 62.9 to 60

F = 60 >

I have an 'open door policy.' Please feel free to contact me with any concerns at the email indicated at the beginning of the syllabus. I look forward to this year and hope you are ready to expand your horizon of knowledge.

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character..” - Martin Luther King Jr.

