

United States History Syllabus
"Building future leaders of our Nation"
2015—2016



Instructor: Ms. Hersey
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Room: 345

Instructor's Note:

Welcome to United States History at St. Benedict's! Throughout this year I will be here as a guide and resource to help you succeed academically, grow as an individual, and develop into independent, critically thinking citizens in our world. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I am best reached by e-mail to set up individual appointments or I am always available before school in my classroom, Room 345. Please stop by and say hello and visit! I look forward to building relationships with all of you and creating a safe, motivated, and energetic learning community as we explore, analyze, and learn the history of our great nation together!

Course Description:

The purpose of this U.S. History course is to provide students with the analytical skills and knowledge needed to deal critically with the problems and events in U.S. history. Through this course students will learn to assess historical materials, interpret historical issues, and evaluate reliability and importance of evidence and primary source materials. At the end of this course students will develop the skills necessary to arrive at their own conclusions and make informed judgments based on their personal inference and interpretation of historical material.

Course Outcomes:

- Analyze the diversity of the American people and the relationships between different races, classes, ethnicities, and genders in history
- Explain the transformation of the American identity and character
- Critique economic changes in trade, commerce, technology and labor
- Interpret the globalization that has occurred and the evolving relationship the United States has with the world
- Identify the effect various religious beliefs and practice in America have had on its history
- Infer the impact population growth, industrialization, pollution, and consumption has had on the environment
- Explain the colonial and revolutionary influences on American political traditions, citizenship, growth of democracy, and the development of a modern state
- Analyze the importance of the reform movements in U.S. history including anti-slavery, labor, temperance, women's rights, civil rights, war, public health, and government

Grading:

Your grades will be determined upon the combination of the following items:

- Tests/Quizzes [25%]
- Projects/presentations [20%]
- Homework [10%]
- Binder Check [15%]
- Classwork, PPD—participation, preparation, discipline [10%]
- Final Exam [20%]

Grading Scale:

A+99-100 C+ 83-84,

A 95-98 C 79-82,

A- 93-94, C- 77-78,

B+ 91-92, D+ 75-76,

B 87-90, D 71-74,

B- 85-86, D- 69-70,

F 69-0

Materials Needed for this Class EVERYDAY:

- 3-ring binder
- 6 dividers
- St. Benedict's Academic Planner
- Pen/Pencil/Highlighter
- Loose leaf notebook paper
- A positive attitude and open mind ☺

Course Outline: [subject to change!]

Trimester 1

Topic 1: The Colonies and New World Formation—Chapters 1-4

- ❖ How has geography influenced the development of the United States?
- ❖ How did exploration impact the region now known as North America?
- ❖ What role did economics play in the formation of the colonies?
- ❖ How did the colonial period help to shape America's five founding ideals?

Topic 2: Foundations of the American Republic—Chapter 5

- ❖ What was the tension between the Americans and the British?
- ❖ Were the American colonists justified in rebelling against British rule?
- ❖ What gave the colonists the courage to stand up to the English Empire?
- ❖ How did the Declaration of Independence change America forever?

Topic 3: Creating the Constitution and Enduring Form of Gov't—Ch. 6-7

- ❖ What is the proper role of the national government?
- ❖ How much power is too much power?
- ❖ Does the Constitution support the ideals in the Declaration of Independence?
- ❖ How is the Constitution a living document?

Topic 4: The Nation Expands: Westward Expansion, Immigration, and Industrialization—Chapter 8

- ❖ What are the characteristics of an American?
- ❖ What is Manifest Destiny?
- ❖ How did expansion and Manifest Destiny influence American policies?
- ❖ Did changes in the nation open opportunities for ALL Americans?

Topic 5: Re-Founding of the American Republic: Sectional Crisis, Civil War and Reconstruction—Chapters 9-11

- ❖ What were the implications of the Missouri Compromise and battle over state's rights?
- ❖ How did economic policies of the North impact the South and vice versa?
- ❖ What impact did Lincoln's leadership have on the outcome of the war and nation?
- ❖ Was the Civil War inevitable?

Trimester 2:

Topic 6: Westward Expansion

Topic 7: America Steps into the 21st Century: Progressivism

Topic 8: WWI and Post-War Tensions

Topic 9: Roaring Twenties and Modernism

Topic 10: The Great Depression and WWII

Topic 11: A Post WWII World

Classroom Expectations:

Students can expect the following from Ms. Hersey:

- I will treat every student fairly, respectfully, and equally.
- I will create a safe and trusting learning environment where everyone's opinions, beliefs, and comments can be heard.
- I will grade assignments, tests, and projects according to the scale provided in the syllabus and return them to students in a timely manner.
- I will come to class prepared, with a positive attitude, and enthusiasm.
- I will provide meaningful and engaging lessons, which challenge students.

Ms. Hersey's FIVE PILLARS:

1. **RESPECT AT ALL TIMES**—Be respectful to yourself, the instructor, and each other ☺
2. **NO SWEARING, NO EXCEPTIONS!**
3. **BE ON TIME** and thorough in everything that you do—come on time to class and turn in quality work **ON TIME**
4. **OPEN MIND AND POSITIVITY**—bring these with you each day, you do not have to love my class OR me, but I DO expect 100% of your effort 100% of the time in class and to maintain a respectful and positive attitude
5. **ALWAYS ASK QUESTIONS**—if you're confused or need help I may not know unless you speak up!

Ms. Hersey expects the following from her students:

- Students will treat all members of the class, including Ms. Hersey, with respect at ALL times.
- Students will arrive on time to class with the required materials for the day.
- Students will leave ALL inappropriate language and negative attitudes at the door, when entering the classroom.
- Students will stay ON TASK at all times.
- Students will participate in class, ask questions, and work cooperatively with their peers.
- Students will adhere to ALL school rules as outlined in the St. Benedict's handbook.
- Students will leave all of their electronic devices in an appropriate safe place during class time—unless otherwise specified by Ms. Hersey.

Attendance, Late Work, ETC...

Attendance:

- Students are expected to come to class every day, as your success in this class will be a direct result of your participation in classroom exercises.
- If you miss a class YOU will be expected to make up any relevant missed work **within two days of returning.**
You are young adults now; it is YOUR responsibility to ask about your missing work. I will remind you to see me after class, but YOU must take the initiative!
- If you miss a test or quiz, you **MUST** come see me by the end of the next class day to schedule a makeup time. *Failure to setup a makeup time for a test or quiz could have a severe impact on your grade.*
- If a student knows that he/she will be absent, that student should inform me before such absence occurs AND will seek makeup work BEFORE departure. In the event of extenuating circumstances, students should seek makeup work immediately upon return, as described above.
- In the event of an unplanned absence, Ms. Hersey can also be reached by email

Behavior:

- Students who fail to act respectfully and professionally will receive demerits according to the infractions listed in the St Benedict's Student Handbook.
- If the inappropriate behavior continues, students will continue to receive demerits accordingly, the behavior will be reported to the school administration, and behavior will be reported to parents/guardians.

Academic Dishonesty and Cheating:

In the St. Benedict Student Handbook is defined as:

- Forgery or representing someone else's work as your own.
- Permitting or assisting another to present your work as his or her own.
- Making use of unauthorized resources or materials (plagiarism).

Ms. Hersey's Policy on Academic Dishonesty

- Any student who chooses to cheat or plagiarize assignments for my class will be reported to the administration and parents will be notified. I have a ZERO tolerance policy for cheating.
- Assignments that have been plagiarized may be re-done for a **maximum of half-credit**. The assignment must be turned in within one week after the assignment was due. If a student chooses not to re-do a plagiarized assignment, the grade will remain a zero.
- Any student who allows another student to copy their assignment is ALSO guilty of cheating and will receive the SAME penalties.
- Seniors who choose to cheat or plagiarize on their final exam/paper will not be allowed to walk at the St. Benedict graduation ceremony.

Late Policy:

- **Late work DOES NOT reflect the behavior expected of St. Benedict Preparatory students.**
- I will not allow students to finish homework during class, nor will I accept work for full credit after it has been collected AT THE BEGINNING of class.
- Homework that is not turned in at the beginning of class will be marked as late.
- If any assignment is turned in late, the maximum a student can receive is **80%**.
- If an assignment is turned in more than a week late, the maximum credit a student may receive is **70%**.
- **No late work will be accepted after the unit test.**
- Teacher may adjust late policy depending on certain circumstances.
- Use your student planner to avoid missing due dates! If you complete things on time, you should expect to receive prompt and helpful feedback, and you will also be able to participate and keep up with the rest of the class.
- If a student is absent for an extended period of time, they **MUST** schedule an appointment with Ms. Hersey. Deadlines and due dates will be extended for extenuating circumstances. Failure to schedule an appointment with Ms. Hersey will be reported to the school administration and Ms. Mueller.

Lastly:

If you are having difficulty with any material covered in class, please see me for help. I am available for help before and after-school by appointment. REMEMBER, your education is your responsibility...so please ask for help when you need it and make good use of the partnership created in the classroom!

Student and Parent/Guardian Consent

As a student in Ms. Hersey's class I have read the syllabus and understand what will be expected of me this year. I agree to be an active participant in this classroom and working constructively with my classmates to build a positive classroom environment. I understand that if I have any questions or am struggling with anything I should make those issues known so that they can be resolved as quickly as possible. FURTHERMORE, I agree to follow all policies as outlined in my St. Benedict's handbook, at all times. Finally, I understand that the policies outlined in the syllabus may change at any time to better reflect the changing needs of the class and its students.

Name (printed): _____ **Period:** _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

As a parent/guardian of a student in Ms. Hersey's class I have read the syllabus and understand what will be expected of my student this year, particularly in regard to the policies listed on the syllabus and school handbook. I commit to helping my student develop as a young and active citizen in any way that I can. I understand that if I have any questions I can contact Ms. Hersey at any time.

Name (printed): _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian E-mail: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Preferred Contact Method/Time: _____

Questions I have for Ms. Hersey

Please write below: