

U.S. HISTORY COURSE SYLLABUS (FALL 2020–SEMESTER 1)



It is recommended that you keep this syllabus for your records to refer to regarding class policies, procedures, rules, grades, and curricular information

Instructor: Onnalee Gibson **email:** ogibson@eupschools.org

Websites: <https://ogibsonhistory.weebly.com/> & <https://stignace.eupschools.org/Page/938>

Primary Textbook: Textbooks will be electronic this year. See **Google Classroom** for all downloads. Students with hard copy requirements, please let me know as soon as possible.

➤ Overview

This year, our class format has gone through some major changes. In order to keep the health, safety, stability, and best learning experience for all students and staff, U.S. History will be utilizing a hybrid model. This means that students will be interacting with one another and their teacher in the classroom (socially distanced) and virtually. All textbooks, articles, assignments, projects, activities, and assessments (unless otherwise indicated) will be provided via Google Classroom, the class website, and available for download. Careful consideration has been made to be sure all options are mobile device friendly. Through this framework, we will be utilizing an array of mediums to enrich student learning in the area of American (U.S.) History from Reconstruction to the present. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and writing in coordination with a thematic view of the Modern World from a U.S. perspective of events. Subject matter includes (but is not limited to) Reconstruction, the growth of industry, war history, political thought and identification, presidential power, Latin America, the Civil Rights Movement, popular culture, imperialism, and conflict in the Middle East. Additionally, students will study the fundamentals of economics as it relates to historical themes, compare various government and economic systems, consider world views across cultural lines, explore both personal and public finance issues, and investigate how current political policies relate to their personal lives.

Please note that the course may change in format, units covered, texts utilized, and pacing as the situation remains fluid due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Any changes will be communicated immediately and what is best for both students and staff will be the driver for any decisions made.

Class Supplies Needed:

1. pens/pencils
2. notebook for paper and note-taking
3. electronic device (cell phone, computer, tablet) preferred
4. internet access preferred
5. email address (school provided)

*Students with connectivity/device issues, please let me know.

➤ Units of Study

Unit One: Introduction to U.S. History and American Industry

- What is “U.S. History”?
- Geography (states, hemisphere, & world)
- Reconstruction & the New South
- Native American Resistance and the Mining Boom
- Industry’s Golden Age
- The Age of Reform and the Progressive Movement

Unit Two: World in Conflict [including WWI - WWII]

- The U.S. and Latin America
- WWI
- A Nation Divided
- The Jazz Age and the Great Depression
- The New Deal
- Environmental Awareness
- WWII
- Post-War World

Unit Three: The Contemporary World [The Cold War – The World Today]

- Movement of People and Ideas
- The Cold, Korean, and Vietnam Wars
- 1960s Culture & the Struggle for Human Rights
- Era of American Dominance and Imperialism
- Nixon to Clinton
- America and the Middle East
- The U.S. and the World Today

➤ Methods of Evaluation

Scores from any formal assessments will be combined with those from daily assignments, journals, notebooks, and participation to determine the students’ final point totals. Grades will be determined by dividing the total points earned by the total points possible to obtain a percentage from the following scale:

93 – 100	A	74 – 76	C
90 – 92	A-	70 – 73	C-
87 – 89	B+	67 – 69	D+
84 – 86	B	64 – 66	D
80 – 83	B-	60 – 63	D-
77 – 79	C+	0 – 59	E

NOTE: Even though Google Classroom has a grade book option, all official student grades will be recorded using PowerSchool. Make sure you consistently access it to keep updated on your progress.

➤ Due Dates and Late Work

Assignments will be due on a tri-weekly basis this year. Monday/Tuesday assignments will be due on Wednesday. Wednesday/Thursday assignments will be due on Friday. Friday assignments will be due on Monday. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments will be turned in via Google Classroom and must be submitted by 12 a.m. on the due day/date. Any assignment turned in after that time will be considered “late” and will be assessed according to that policy. Late work will only be accepted by the instructor with

deductions to the score via one full letter grade per day late (taking effect at 12:01 a.m.), until there is no credit left to be applied (or 5+ days). Late scores will be earned as follows*

- 1 day late (12:01 a.m.) = Less one letter grade (highest score possible is a 'B')
- 2 days late = Less two letter grades (highest score possible is a 'C')
- 3 days late = Less three letter grades (highest score possible is a 'D')
- 4 days late = Less four letter grades (highest score possible is an 'E')
- 5+ days late = No Credit Applied (0 points possible)

* Of course, absent students during face-to-face school instruction will be allowed *the same amount of days missed* to complete assignments for full credit. Afterward, any late policies apply.

Students are expected to mark any assignments turned in late due to absence with "ABSENT" at the top of the page. This alerts the teacher to verify attendance records in order to avoid any deductions as per the late policy. If you are unsure how to do this, please contact me. *Additionally, if any assignment is turned in late (regardless of the reason), please note the "PowerSchool" section of this syllabus (below) for an explanation of expected grading time frames.*

Any project assignments given will use a different pacing/due date system. See "Late Unit Projects."

➤ **Extra Credit**

Extra credit opportunities *may* be made available for students throughout the school year. It is not recommended that students put themselves in a position to "need" it, especially since they are only given as part of the curriculum. Such opportunities are only offered at the teacher's discretion and are not an ordinary occurrence. Extra credit, if presented, will be added to existing assignments; they are not separate assignments altogether and are **not** given on an individual basis. Any extra credit offered is open for all students.

➤ **PowerSchool**

PowerSchool is updated by the teacher at least once per week. Be aware that assignments are graded and entered via PowerSchool ***in the order they are received***. Thus, any student that turns an assignment in late (regardless if it is due to an excused absence or not), will likely not get a score until later—up to one full week from the time it is turned in. In the meantime, the grade will go into PowerSchool as a "0" and "missing" until it has been graded and updated. This is because that student's assignment has been turned in later than the rest of the class and is now at the bottom of six other classes (and nearly 200 other students') work. Once that student's work has been graded, the "0" and "missing" will be replaced with the grade earned. All work will then be assessed via the "late work policy" with absent students receiving no penalty.

Note: It is especially important for students involved in extracurricular activities (that must remain eligible to participate) to turn in their work *on time*. Special or preferential treatment is not extended to anyone. In the interest of impartiality, all work will be graded in the same order as everyone else's. Therefore, if a student is ineligible and attempts to turn in late/missing work in order to become eligible, s/he must be prepared to remain ineligible. It is not reasonable to expect the teacher to grade an assignment the same day it is turned in. That is why it is a ***student's responsibility*** to keep his/her grades up to date.

➤ **Late Unit Projects**

Due to the nature of any final/unit project assignments given in the course, there is a separate policy for these. Project due dates are crucial to the structure and learning atmosphere of the course. Therefore, students will be given plenty of prior notice as well as ample time in class or--as part of the virtual class pacing--to work on (and often finish) their assignments but are also required to stay on task.

Projects will be due on a specific date by 12 a.m. as indicated by the teacher and will not follow the tri-weekly due dates of typical assignments. Students will be notified well in advance of any due dates and expected work times associated with a formal project. Ultimately, the projects students create will be used for class collaboration during the scheduled hour the day after they are due; thus, any final project turned in late will only be accepted for **half (½) credit after one day, and no credit (0 points) after two school days**.

In other words, extra time/school days will not be given due to the amount of in-class work time available to students to complete projects. Any student that is absent during project workdays must consider their absent work to be the project itself. The only exemption from this policy is if a student absence occurs at the same time the project has been initially assigned. Projects often require students to work together, even virtually, and since so many others count on a student's individual work, it is critical to remain on schedule. Personal responsibility is a must.

➤ **Formal Tests & Quizzes**

When given, formal tests are a required element to each student's grade. If a student is absent on the day of a test/exam or quiz, it is up to him/her to reschedule an appropriate make-up date. The instructor may administer an alternate test over the same material. Formats for tests are often a combination of short answer and multiple-choice. However, written tests may also be given. Alternate tests are given at the teacher's discretion and may be in any format. At the end of each semester, any test still not yet taken will either be automatically entered with a score of 0 points or will be marked as "incomplete," requiring the student to take the test before any semester credit in that course is given.

➤ **Student Responsibility**

Grades are earned; they are not given.

Being eligible for extracurricular activities is a student's responsibility and is considered a privilege. Any student that wishes to do so must adhere to the same class expectations and guidelines as everyone else. Please refer to the "PowerSchool" section regarding grades and eligibility.

All students are expected to do their *own work* (see "plagiarism" section below), check PowerSchool (on their own time) or speak with the teacher regularly to remain aware of grades, get any makeup work/class materials/information missed when absent, follow class rules, and be wholly cognizant of all class policies

and procedures. This syllabus is to be considered an appropriate forewarning of all issues outlined and signing it indicates full recognition of that.

➤ Plagiarism

noun

the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own.
synonyms: copying, infringement of copyright, piracy, theft, stealing; informal cribbing
"accusations of plagiarism"

All assignments are *required* to be completed by the student in his or her own words. Plagiarism ranges from turning in another student's assignment, to reproducing another student's work/ideas, to copying from resources in a book or online without proper citation. Plagiarism and "cheating" also includes allowing another student to copy one's own work. Unless specified, all assignments must be done individually, so engaging in any variation of these activities will be considered cheating.

Absolutely **no** part of a student's assignment is permitted to be plagiarized. If any plagiarism or copying is discovered, further consideration of the assignment for a grade will immediately cease.

Any confusion as to what is considered plagiarism can be clarified by researching the topic or meeting with the teacher at any time *before* work is submitted. Plagiarism is not only considered unlawful, it violates academic codes of conduct.

With the use of various software, internet searches, and other practices, finding plagiarized content has become very easy. Students should not turn in work that is not their own at any time.

It is critical to note that submitting work that is not one's own will be considered cheating and will result in any combination of the following: a) full loss of credit for the entire point value of the assignment; b) inability to redo the assignment; c) disciplinary action.

➤ Permission Slips

Occasionally throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to view full-length films for educational purposes. It should be noted that some of these movies have an 'R' rating (typically for sustained war-reenacted violence). Parents will be notified should any movies be added during the year with such a rating via a permission slip. If a student does not present a **signed permission slip**, s/he will be given an alternate assignment during each of the films with an 'R' rating (i.e. a paper, research assignment, etc.). **For record keeping purposes, only signed and dated notes will take the place of any formal permission slips; phone calls and/or word-of-mouth permission will not be accepted as valid.**

➤ **Attendance Policy**

Please refer to the student handbook; I will be upholding these policies.

➤ **Hall Pass Policy**

Due to the high amount of hall traffic that has been occurring in previous school years, the following hall pass policy has been adopted. All students will receive three (3) hall passes to be used at their own discretion during each 9-week period of the school year (totaling 6 per semester). These passes must be approved by the teacher for valid use. While these passes may be used by the student as they wish, they are cautioned to use them wisely; students are required to use a hall pass whenever outside of the classroom during classroom hours. (The only exception made to this will be for documented medical purposes.) Left over hall passes are credited back to students at a rate of 10 points per pass (maximum of 30 points possible) and added to their quarter grade. Unused passes expire at the end of each quarter and become void of any value upon its completion. In order to keep this as sanitary a process as possible, students will need only to present the hall pass to the teacher and then it will be destroyed. We will not be handling hall passes and they will not be collected. At the end of the marking period, any hall passes (for a maximum of three) will be shown to the teacher and it will be recorded. Again, they will not be collected.

➤ **Electronic devices, headphones, and music**

Students will be permitted to listen to music with headphones while working in class, **unless** any of the following occurs:

1. The teacher, classmates, or other persons are instructing, or during videos
2. A group assignment or other class activity is in progress
3. During tests, quizzes, or other forms of assessment

Note: The use of music by the student is at the full discretion of the teacher and explicit permission must be given. This should be considered a privilege. Students who have not remained on track in the class, or who do not follow these rules, may have their music privileges eliminated. Headphones are required at all times and volumes must be low enough that others are unable to hear it. Inappropriate use of a personal device will require the teacher to follow the electronic device policy outlined in the student handbook.

➤ **Laptops/Netbooks/Computers/Tablets/Mobile devices**

Electronic devices are highly encouraged and expected to be utilized to enrich class content when used during the school day. Students using games, social media, PowerSchool, or any other website not related to the current assignment without prior approval will lose the privilege of using it. Students who lose this opportunity will be moved to a paper-only format. Any use of electronic devices for personal entertainment use must be *preapproved* by the teacher and must not be distracting to others. Students are responsible for the care and security of their own device. Please review, sign, and follow the *Technological Classroom Expectations* document. This will further outline all conduct required for the use of these devices.

➤ **Cell Phones**

As a general rule, cell phones are typically not permitted for use during class periods. However, until the laptops ordered by our district become available, cell phones are likely to be used in place of computers to

enrich student learning. In that case, students will be given prior notice and are expected to follow the “laptops/computers/tablets/mobile devices” policy (see section with corresponding label), as it will be considered one during the class period. Use of the device for texting, chatting, making calls, accessing social media, or using applications that utilize such functions is *strictly prohibited*.

It is the teacher’s number one priority to be sure that the classroom remains a consistently safe learning environment for all students and staff. Thus, students caught using a cell phone, tablet, or any other device to take pictures or video of people (unless explicit permission is given) will have their device confiscated as per electronic device policies and will lose their privilege to use such devices for any reason indefinitely. Disregarding this policy may also result in further disciplinary action. Please note that this applies even if students are taking pictures/videos of themselves. This syllabus serves as an official warning.

➤ **Covid-19 Response and Procedures**

We will be strictly following all guidelines laid out in the Michigan Roadmap and Saint Ignace Area Schools adopted school plans. Keeping students and staff safe during the pandemic, while also maintaining academic integrity, is the goal. Remember that there are people in your class, school, and community that are at-risk for this virus and it could be life-threatening. That is why your personal conduct and adherence to the plan is required.

- Students and staff will always be required to wear a mask or approved face covering while in the classroom. Your nose and mouth must be covered. Please see all school communications regarding this.
- Be aware of your surroundings. It is important to keep an appropriate distance from others during this time to mitigate viral spread.
- Your personal hygiene is critical. Make sure you are washing your hands and sanitizing often. Avoid touching your face.
- Do not share items with others. We will be keeping students and staff as separated as we can to help lower the risk for everyone.
- Free movement around the classroom will be kept to an absolute minimum. Our space is very limited, and distance must be maintained. If you need to leave your seat for any reason, notify the teacher first.
- Be patient! We are all experiencing this pandemic and uncertainty together. We will get through it!

Classroom Rules:

1. Treat everyone in the classroom with courtesy and respect!
2. Be on time—I will strictly enforce the tardy policy in the student handbook.
3. Be prepared—bring all class materials needed with you.
4. Remain in your seat until the bell rings and follow the dismissal protocol. We will have a special way of leaving the classroom this year to maintain distancing and safety.
5. Read/listen to all instructions before speaking.
6. “Ask three before me.”
7. No food or drinks in the classroom. The only exception to this is water kept in a capped container.
8. Help keep the classroom and desks neat and clean! WRITE ON PAPER ONLY!
9. If anything is unclear, get clarification; do not assume.
10. Do your best. 😊

➤ **Teacher Availability**

I will respond to any e-mails within a 24-hour period and am available before school. I am also available during my conference period each day; please see the school schedule for specific times. The *best* way to contact me is by e-mail, as I am usually able to respond much quicker during the school day through this method. I encourage students to ask questions, and/or to meet with me as soon as possible if there is any confusion about the course. Other arrangements can be made if needed for student and/or parent conferences. Please keep in mind that I cannot help if I am unaware of an issue. Be sure to seek help before it is too late! Waiting until *after* an assignment is due, or the end of a marking period, is not helpful to anyone. There is only so much that can be done in the final days/weeks of a marking period.

➤ **Homework Lab**

At this time, there is no homework lab scheduled. You will be updated if any changes occur.

➤ **Technological Classroom Expectations Document**

This document is available on my website. Make sure you and your parent/guardian read and sign it as soon as possible.

➤ **Email and Contact Information**

There has never been a more important time to make sure your contact information is updated in the high school office. Please confirm with staff that all personal and parental contact data listed is accurate so that you can be easily reached. Students, check your school email regularly; this is what will be used most often for communication.

➤ **Going “paperless”**

To keep the opportunities for viral spread at a minimum, we will be working hard to keep the class as paperless as possible throughout the course. Please help us by doing the same! If you can return any forms or papers electronically, that would be greatly appreciated! You can do this by scanning or taking pictures of papers and emailing it. If you are unsure how to do this, contact me. I'd be happy to assist.

➤ **Syllabus Agreement**

This document is meant to serve as a classroom guide to students, as well as parent/guardians. As stated previously, it is a student's responsibility at the high school level to make sure all policies and procedures are understood, and this syllabus is to be considered ample forewarning of all the issues outlined. Signing the agreement is an indication that the document has been read completely, understood, and that the policies will be abided by. I welcome any comments, questions, or concerns at any time. However, this syllabus outlines all procedures and policies and it is my commitment to treat all students with dignity, respect, and absolute fairness. In order to assure that such equality exists, all students will be held to the same rules and policies defined here. Parents/guardians, please be sure to keep a copy of this syllabus for your records for future reference. You can also find an electronic copy on my school website.

Please keep a copy of this syllabus for your records.

SYLLABUS AGREEMENT
U.S. HISTORY
FALL 2020—Semester 1

I have read and understood the above syllabus and agree to abide by and/or support the provisions listed therein.

Student Name (print)

Student Signature

Parent or Guardian Signature

In order to strengthen Teacher/Parent contact and availability, please provide your valid and up-to-date E-mail address if it is not already on file with the office. Thank you!

PARENT/GUARDIAN EMAIL ADDRESS