



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Course Overview

American Studies- Honors
Course # 230



General Information

Credits: 1

Weighted: N/A

Prerequisite: N/A

Length: Full Year

Format: Meets Daily

Grade: 11th

Course Description

This course is a survey of United States history exposing students to historical concepts and also to concepts related to politics, society and economics. Major topics of study include, but are not limited to, industrialization, the progressive movement, imperialism, World War I, the twenties, the Great Depression, World War II, post-war prosperity, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, civil rights, the post-cold war era and globalization. A vigorous curriculum incorporates advanced level texts and primary and secondary sources. Higher level thinking and writing skills are emphasized through the use of synthesis, analysis, and evaluation.

Course Objectives:

Enduring Understanding

Understanding history can help individuals participate more effectively in the world.

Sources need to be interpreted and evaluated in order to be used well.

Knowledge of the past informs the present and can prepare people for the future.

Significant historical events involve a complex set of interrelated causes and effects.

Individuals can influence history but are more often influenced by history.

Individuals can make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good.

Individuals can participate actively to influence groups and institutions.

Individuals have important rights and responsibilities as citizens in a democracy.

Essential Questions

How can studying the past help understand the present world and make decisions for the future?

When do you work within a system to change it and when do you go outside the system?

Is change better coming from the top, the bottom, or some combination

What is the American dream and how does it drive us?

Does government reflect or shape society?

How does an ordinary individual really make a difference?

Is the American dream a world dream?

What justifies reaching outside our borders?

Skills

Students will be able to:

- Identify a variety of sources and information
- Recognize advantages and limitations of various of sources
- Distinguish between relevant and irrelevant
- Differentiate fact from opinion
- Speak in an effective way
- Use media and various visuals for communicating
- Support generalization through the use of relevant factual information
- Use different forms of writing exposition: investigative, informative, interpretive, argumentative

Common Assessments:

Common Assessment 1- Industrial Society DBQ
Common Assessment 2- Great Depression/New Deal Research and Presentation
Common Assessment 3- Historical Context of a Current Issue
Common Assessment 4- Twentieth Century FRQ

Major Units of Study:

- Unit 1 – Forging an Industrial Society 1869-1900
- Political Paralysis in the Gilded Age 1869-1896
 - Industry Comes of Age 1865-1900
 - America Moves to the City 1865-1900
 - The Great West and the Agricultural Revolution 1865-1896
- Unit 2 – Struggling for Justice at Home and Abroad 1890-1919
- Empire and Expansion 1890-1909
 - Progressivism 1901-1916
 - WWI 1914-1918
- Unit 3 – Politics of Boom and Bust 1919-1939
- Roaring Twenties 1919-1929
 - The Great Depression and the New Deal 1933-1939
- Unit 4 – Fascism, Militarism and WWII 1933-1945
- FDR and the Shadow of War 1933-1941
 - America in WWII 1941-1945
- Unit 5 – The Cold War and the Eisenhower Era 1945-1960
- The Cold War Begins 1945-1952
 - The Eisenhower Era 1952-1960
- Unit 6 – The Sixties and the Vietnam War 1960-1968
- The Story Sixties 1960-1968
- Unit 7 – The Seventies, Watergate, and the Crisis in the Middle East 1968-1980
- The Stalemated Seventies 1968-1980
- Unit 8 – 1980 to Present
- The Resurgence of Conservatism 1980-1992
 - America confronts the Post-Cold War Era 1992-2004
 - The American People Face a New Century 1992-2004

Materials & Texts

Text Book – *The American Pageant*. 13th edition (Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Company)

Summer Assignment

