

U.S. History



"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."
— William Butler Yeats

Introduction

The 20th century was one of the most transformative periods in U.S. history, marked by rapid industrial growth, world wars, social movements, technological advances, and shifting political landscapes. In this course, we will explore the major events and changes that shaped America from the dawn of the 1900s through the end of the century. Through reading, discussion, and writing, you will examine how these events influenced the nation's identity, values, and role in the world. You will also learn to analyze historical sources, consider multiple perspectives, and make connections between past events and issues we face today. By the end of the semester, you will have a clearer understanding of how the 20th century continues to shape the America we know now.

Course Overview

U.S. History is a two semester course. These topics will be covered in the first semester.

Topics to Discuss:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Unit 1: The Gilded Age (intro unit)<input type="checkbox"/> Unit 2: American Imperialism and World War I<input type="checkbox"/> Unit 3: The Roaring 20's and the New Deal<input type="checkbox"/> Unit 4: World War II and the Beginning of the Cold War Era
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Learning Goals

The following goals will guide our learning and growth in this history class.

- Understand Major Events of the 20th Century** – Identify and explain key political, social, economic, and technological events since the year 1900, recognizing their causes and consequences.

- Analyze Historical Sources** – Read and interpret primary and secondary sources, including news articles, speeches, and multimedia, to understand different perspectives on modern events.
- Make Connections Between Past and Present** – Explain how historical events and trends of the 21st century relate to earlier eras and continue to shape the modern world.
- Develop Research and Writing Skills** – Create organized, evidence-based writing projects that use credible sources to explain or argue about contemporary historical issues.
- Interpret Global Data and Trends** – Analyze maps, charts, graphs, and statistics to understand global patterns in areas such as conflict, migration, climate change, and technology.

Required Supplies

Each student needs to bring the following:

Supply	Use
5 - subject notebook OR a 1.5" Binder (<i>if using binder, please include 5-tab dividers and loose lined paper for each section</i>)	In this class, we will use a 5-subject notebook or binder as our primary learning tool. This notebook will be used every day and is required for participation and grading .
Plastic 2-pocket folder	This will be kept with our notebook/binder to hold handouts, ongoing projects or assignments, and graded work. Your folder is where you will keep handouts or graded work.
Writing Utensils	Students will use a <u>pencil</u> every day . Other utensils such as highlighters, colored pencils and pens are optional, and if pertinent to the lesson will be provided by the teacher.
Kleenex	We go through Kleenex like they're going out of style. Please allow your child to bring at least 1 box for classroom use throughout the semester.

Grading Categories and Weights

Category	Weight
Portfolio (Notebook/Binder)	30%
Tests/Major Projects	30%
Assignments/Classwork	20%
Quizzes	20%

Technology Policies

This classroom is designed for focused, hands-on learning with minimal distractions. Please read the following expectations carefully:

Technology	Acceptable Uses	Consequence
Cell Phone	None; phones must be left in students backpack and remain in the hallway during class.	1 st warning is given on the first day of school. 2 nd offense will result in a 30-minute detention with the teacher. 3 rd offense will result in admin. referral.
School issued iPad	Will be used for substitute days or to catch up on missing work outside of the classroom. There will be occasions when the iPad is required for class - your teacher will let you know when it is appropriate.	Bringing your iPad into class without permission will result in the device being taken away for the remainder of the class. Repeat offenders will be referred to admin.
Ear buds	None; music must be accessed from a device, therefore these are not necessary or permitted in the classroom.	1 st warning is given on the first day of school. 2 nd offense will result in a 30-minute detention with the teacher. 3 rd offense will result in admin. referral.

Absent Work Policy

- **Excused Absences:** Students get **one extra school day for every day missed** to turn in assignments without penalty.
- **Unexcused Absences:** Work is due **the next day** and may receive a late penalty.
- **Responsibility:** Students must check the **class website/Google Classroom** or **absent work folder** for missed assignments and see the teacher for clarification.
- **Tests/Quizzes:** Must be made up within **3 days** of returning unless prior arrangements are made.
- If you are absent from class please see **Google Classroom** for notes, exit tickets, or any other assignments/resources. Daily activities will be **logged in the Calendar tab** for your convenience.
- **Google Classroom code:** [m4juhxqu](#)

Late Work Policy

- **Full Credit Window:** Work turned in **1 day late** may lose up to **10%**.
- **Reduced Credit Window:** Work turned in **2–5 days late** may lose up to **30%**.
- **After 5 Days:** Work is only accepted for **50% credit**
- **Major Projects/Essays:** May lose **10% per day** late, with a maximum loss of 50%, unless arrangements are made before the due date.

Special Circumstances

- Students with **IEPs, 504 plans, or documented emergencies** receive accommodations.
- **Communication is key** – students must **email or speak with the teacher** if they anticipate a delay - asking for an extension is perfectly acceptable, however please be respectful and responsible. Lack of communication will result in a lack of grace.

Backpacks

- **Backpacks** – Backpacks are **not necessary in the classroom**, and cause the room to be cluttered. To mitigate this issue, we will be leaving backpacks in the **300-hallway** in front of the **blue lockers**.

Questions or concerns

Amanda Deal

amanda.deal@lexschools.org or through **TalkingPoints**

(308) 324-4681 ext. 2113

Available before/after school and also during my plan period (9:45 - 10:30).

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Your child's success is highly reliant on your support and participation in their learning experience.

Syllabus Acknowledgement

Please sign and date on the lines below to acknowledge that you have read the syllabus and understand the policies that will be enforced in this classroom.

Parent: _____

Date: _____

Student: _____

Date: _____

[Notice: Credit cannot be given for the Syllabus Acknowledgement if I cannot read your signature.]