Semester 1 – Course Syllabus for U.S. History S

Course Expectations • Procedures • Learning Framework

U.S. History S.
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Plan/Contact Time: 2:40 – 3:25 p.m.
Feel free to respond to my messages on Talking Points, also!

WELCOME TO CLASS

This class is designed to help you build knowledge, skills, confidence, and successful academic habits. You are not expected to know everything when you walk through the door. You are expected to **come prepared, participate, put forth your best effort, and ask for help when you need it.**

Come prepared. Participate. Use your time well. Take responsibility. Ask for help.

OUR WEEKLY LEARNING FRAMEWORK

Most of our learning will follow a predictable weekly structure. Each day has a purpose so we can build knowledge, use what we learn, and reinforce it before moving on.

Day	Focus	Goal
Monday	Vocabulary & Background	**Build It** — Develop vocabulary, background knowledge, and confidence.
Tuesday	Core Lesson	**Learn It** — Learn the main concept/content for the week.
Wednesday	Application	**Use It** — Apply the content through activities, analysis, sources, maps, discussion, etc.
Thursday	Reinforce & Assess	**Lock It In** — Practice, reinforce, and check understanding.
Friday	Flex	**Finish Strong** — Workday, current events, review, enrichment, quizzes, assessments, etc.

Short Weeks

The Monday–Friday framework is our **normal learning cycle**, not a race against the calendar. Shortened or unusual weeks may require activities to be combined, adjusted, or continued into the following week.

The goal is to learn the content—not rush through it because the calendar changed.

BE READY FOR CLASS

Students should be **in their assigned seat when the bell rings** with:

✓ Class binder ✓ Pencil ✓ Assigned work

You never need to ask what you need for class—you will always need your **binder and pencil**. If something else is needed, you will be given time to get it.

Required Supplies:

- One **1–1½ inch binder**
- One **12-pack of #2 pencils**
- **2 boxes of tissues**

Students are responsible for maintaining their pencil supply throughout the semester.

Bags

Backpacks and bags will remain in the designated area in the **800 hallway, to the left of the classroom door in front of the blue lockers.** Remove your binder and pencil before entering class.

TECHNOLOGY & SCHOOL POLICIES

iPads & Google Classroom

We will use Google Classroom, but **iPads should remain in your bag unless you are specifically told we are using them.** When technology is needed, you will be given time to retrieve your device.

Most graded work will be **completed on paper during class**. Google Classroom will primarily be used for study guides, review materials, resources, digital copies, and occasional assignments.

School Policies

All school policies regarding **cell phones, iPads, earbuds/headphones, and dress code** will be enforced in this classroom. Refer to posted school policies if you need a reminder.

AI

Because most work is handwritten and completed during class, AI use should rarely be necessary. If AI is permitted for an assignment, you will be specifically told when and how it may be used.

Unless permission is given, submitted work should represent your own thinking and effort. When in doubt, ask.

GRADING

Grades will be calculated using three PowerSchool categories:

Category	Weight	Includes
Assessments	**50%**	Unit assessments, quizzes, and other demonstrations of learning
Daily Work & Application	**30%**	Vocabulary, classwork, application activities, written work, and guided practice
Portfolio (Student Binder)	**20%**	Binder organization, completion, required materials, and periodic binder checks

Binder Checks

Your binder should come to class **every day** and contain your vocabulary, notes, assignments, activities, and study materials.

Binders will be checked periodically, normally during **Flex Days** while you are working independently. Maintaining your binder is an ongoing responsibility.

ASSIGNMENTS & LATE WORK

On-time work is eligible for full credit.

Late work from the **current unit** will be accepted until the day of the unit assessment and may earn **up to 80% credit**, depending on quality and completeness.

Once the unit assessment has been completed and the unit grades have been entered into PowerSchool:

THE UNIT IS CLOSED.

Work from that unit will no longer be accepted.

Use class time, Flex Fridays, and tutoring to address missing work before the unit closes.

ABSENCES & MAKEUP WORK

Whether your absence is **excused or unexcused**, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed.

Come see me. Communicate. Make a plan.

Missed work must be completed within a **reasonable amount of time** based on the length of your absence and the assignment.

If you have been gone for an extended period or are struggling to catch up, talk to me so we can make a reasonable plan.

UNIT ASSESSMENTS & RETAKES

Students may complete **ONE unit assessment retake per quarter.**

To qualify:

- The unit study guide must have been **completed and turned in on its original due date**.
- A **Retake Request Form** must be completed.
- Any requirements on the form must be completed.
- The retake must occur within the timeframe established by the teacher.

Students are responsible for requesting and arranging their retake.

Choose wisely—you only receive one per quarter.

TARDIES & BEHAVIOR

Tardies

Students arriving after the bell without an approved pass will receive a **15-minute detention**, which must be served within **one week**.

Failure to serve the detention will result in an **office referral**.

Multiple or consecutive tardies will result in progressive consequences, which may include **additional detention time, parent/guardian contact, and/or an office referral.**

Behavior

A detention assigned for classroom behavior will normally be **30 minutes** and must be served within **three school days**.

Failure to serve the detention will result in an office referral. Additional consequences may be assigned according to school policy.

HALL & BATHROOM PASSES

Our school uses **Securely Pass**. Because iPads normally remain in student bags, **I will create student passes and keep a classroom record of pass use.**

Occasionally needing to leave class is understandable. Repeatedly leaving class, however, means repeatedly missing instruction.

If leaving class becomes a pattern:

1st → We have a conversation.
Continues → You may make up missed instructional time during tutoring.

The goal is not to prevent necessary restroom use—it is to protect instructional time.

FOOD & DRINKS

Small snacks are allowed as long as they are **not distracting or disruptive**. Loud wrappers during instruction, sharing food across the room, or creating a mess may result in losing this privilege.

Water is the only drink allowed in the classroom. Other drinks must remain in your bag in the hallway.

TUTORING & EXTRA HELP

Tutoring is available **Monday–Thursday every other week in the Community Room.** A calendar with specific dates and times will be posted.

You do **not** need to be failing to come to tutoring. Come for extra help, missing work, assessment review, makeup time, questions, or simply a quiet place to work.

Ask for help before you fall behind.

COMMUNICATION

I communicate with parents/guardians regularly—and **not only when something goes wrong.**

Families may hear from me about academic progress, missing work, behavior, improvement, effort, positive choices, and successes.

If there is a concern, I would rather communicate early and work together to solve it than wait until it becomes a larger problem.

THE BOTTOM LINE

You do not have to be perfect.

You do need to:

SHOW UP • BE PREPARED • PARTICIPATE • DO THE WORK
BE RESPECTFUL • TAKE RESPONSIBILITY • ASK FOR HELP

Mistakes happen. Bad days happen. Some assignments will be difficult.

What matters is what you do next.