

U. S. History

The Classical Academy (2021-2022)



Syllabus

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The Classical Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado

11th Grade

U.S. History Syllabus

Course Design: The U.S. History course at TCA is designed to provide a two-semester survey of American history from Jamestown through the 20th century. The course will challenge the reading, writing, and analytical skills of students enrolled. Critical thinking and analysis will be emphasized. Students will examine and interpret a textbook, as well as original documents. Testing will stress writing. Other assessment techniques will also be used. Students must come to class each day prepared to participate in classroom discussion of the reading assigned the night before.

Class Structure: The U.S. History course at TCA typically meets for 50 minutes each day of the school year. Daily classes stress the Socratic method to aid in the learning process. Classroom lecture, writing exercises, and oral presentations are also utilized to enhance the learning environment.

Course Objectives: Students will

- master a broad body of knowledge related to U.S. History
- demonstrate an understanding of historical chronology
- use historical data to support an argument or position
- interpret and apply data from original documents
- effectively use analytical skills – i.e., cause and effect, compare and contrast – and communicate analysis in well-written essays
- become familiar with topics defined in CO Content Standards for History (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/scripts/allstandards/COStandards.asp?stid=8&stid2=0&glid2=0>)
- work effectively with others to produce products and solve problems

Course Text and Readings:

Course Text

Murrin, John, et al. *Liberty, Equality, Power: A History of the American People, Sixth Edition*. Cengage Learning, 2012.

Primary Source References

Selected primary source readings (documents, letters, etc.) will be assigned throughout the semester. Many in-class readings will come from *The American Republic: Primary Sources* and *The American Nation: Primary Sources* both edited by Bruce Frohnen.

Course Grading: The grading scale for TCA is as follows.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade Points</u>
A	93-100%	4.0
A-	90-92%	3.7
B+	87-89%	3.3
B	83-86%	3.0
B-	80-82%	2.7
C+	77-79%	2.3
C	73-76%	2.0
C-	70-72%	1.7
D+	67-69%	1.3
D	63-66%	1.0
D-	60-62%	0.7
F	<60%	0

Classroom Expectations: Students are expected to come to class each day prepared to learn. Assigned readings must be completed prior to class to facilitate classroom discussion. Class participation enhances the learning process and will be a graded item in this course. Note taking skills are very important for success in this course. All assignments will be due on their assigned dates – *late work* will be reduced in score by the percentages listed below each day the work is late (all major assignments must be turned in even if no points are awarded, i.e. research paper project – identified by the teacher). *Sloppy or inappropriately completed work* will be returned to the student and must be redone (the same point reductions apply as for late work). Students are expected to abide by the Classroom Behavior guidelines listed in the Student Handbook.

Late work reduction percentages:

short-term homework – maximum 20% taken off if one day late; students may turn in the assignment for credit by the end of the unit/block of instruction.

long-term projects – the majority of work in U.S. History falls into this category (assigned at least 1-2 weeks prior to due date).

1-2 days late: 20% reduction on assignment

3 + days late: 0% on assignment

Course Quizzes / Tests / Projects / Final Exam: Students can expect a quiz in the middle of and a test after each unit. The essay portion of each test will be cumulative. *Students will be provided a study guide for each unit.* Understanding and retaining knowledge of the topics covered is key to success on the tests and final exam. Each semester will conclude with a final exam. Students will also be expected to complete the steps in the Hero Project each semester. Handouts on the specific requirements for each step will be provided in class.

Plagiarism / Cheating / Discussing Graded Assignments: Plagiarism is “using someone else’s words or ideas without giving proper credit – or without giving any credit at all – to the writer of the original. Whether plagiarism is intentional or unintentional, it is a serious offense . . .” (from: Trimmer, Joseph. *A Guide to MLA Documentation, 5th ed.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999. 25.). Plagiarism is a form of cheating and contrary to all integrity values held at TCA. All cheating at TCA results in a zero for the assignment and further official disciplinary measures may be taken. Please refer to the student handbook for details.

****In this course students will not discuss graded assessments outside of class, once they have been administered, until authorized by the teacher (i.e., tests, quizzes, etc.). If a student is found to be discussing an assessment without permission, the student’s grade on the assessment will result in a ZERO.

Graded Assignment Weight: Projected assignment point values are listed below. Adjustments will be made at the discretion of the teacher. Students will be advised of modifications well in advance of any changes to relative weights of graded work.

	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>	
1st semester	<i>Tests (4 @ 100 pts each)</i>	400	
	<i>Class Notes/Participation</i>	100	
	<i>Quizzes/In-class assignments</i>	75	
	<i>Projects (listed below)</i>	310	
	<i>Hero Research Paper</i>		
	<i>Preliminary list of sources (10 pts)</i>		
	<i>Bullet points (45 points)</i>		
	<i>Proof of Research (40 pts)</i>		
	<i>Intro and body paragraphs (70 pts)</i>		
	<i>Rough Draft (45 pts)</i>		
	<i>Final Draft (100 pts)</i>		
	<i>Final Exam</i>	<u>200</u>	
	TOTAL	1085	
2nd semester	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>	
	<i>Tests (4 @ 100 pts each)</i>	400	
	<i>Class Participation/Notes</i>	100	
	<i>Quizzes/In-class assignments</i>	100	
	<i>Projects (listed below)</i>	200	
	<i>Hero Resume (75 pts)</i>		
	<i>Hero Time Cover/Poster (50 pts)</i>		
	<i>Hero Debates (75 pts)</i>		
		<i>Final Exam</i>	<u>200</u>
		TOTAL	1000

Course Outline and Daily Assignments: Daily reading assignments, project deadlines, quizzes, and tests will be given to students on unit schedules and project handouts. *Each class will begin with 5 minutes of “journaling” about the reading the night before without notes or a book. Note that the journal is worth a test grade.*

For planning purposes, below are the intended due dates for all major academic events of Fall 2020.

25-30 August	Hero Project – Hero Choice
2 September	Unit 1 Quiz
9 September	Hero Project – Sources
14 September	Hero Project – 1 st 15 bullets
16 September	Unit 1 Test
21 September	Hero Project – 2 nd 15 bullets
28 September	Hero Project – 3 rd 15 bullets (total 45)
29 September	Unit 2 Quiz
6 October	Unit 2 Test
21 October	Hero Project – Proof of Research
25 October	Hero Project – Intro Paragraph
29 October	Hero Project – Body Section/Paragraph 1
3 November	Hero Project – Body Section/Paragraph 2
9 November	Unit 3 Quiz
10 November	Hero Project – Body Section/Paragraph 3
12 November	Hero Project – Conclusion Paragraph
15 November	Hero Project – Rough Draft
19 November	Unit 3 Test
7 December	Hero Project – Final Draft

Spring Dates are tentative and may change. Here are the Spring 2021 steps, roughly.

January	Unit 1 Quiz
January / February	Hero Project – Resume
February	Unit 1 Test
February/March	Unit 2 Quiz
March	Unit 2 Test
March	Hero Project – Time Cover / Movie Poster
April	Unit 3 Quiz
April	Unit 3 Test
April/May	Unit 4 Test
May	Hero Project – Debates

Signature Page

I have read, understand, and agree to follow the 2021-2022 US History Syllabus. If questions arise during the school year, I will direct them first to Mr. Mueh or Ms. Neagle.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date