



United States History

NUAMES Early College High School

HISTORY IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT TELLS US HOW WE GOT WHERE WE ARE

Welcome to U.S. History

with Nichole Spencer

This US History course is designed to enable students to better understand their connection to American culture and the continuing development of American society. While the emphasis of this course is on the modern (post-Civil War) development of the United States, we will spend the first term reviewing the founding documents and principles to better understand how they have been interpreted over time. Students will use knowledge of history, geography, economics, and humanities to understand the development of the American people and major events that have shaped the American nation.

Students will cultivate writing, critical reasoning, effective reading, collaborative, and analytical skills. I have high expectations for those enrolled in this course. Self-discipline and doing one's very best is imperative.

During the first semester we will be covering:

Unit	Title	Key Topics & Assignments
1	American Beginnings	American Revolution, creation of the Constitution & founding documents
2	Expansion & Manifest Destiny	Territorial expansion & population growth, leading to rising conflict
3	Civil War & Reconstruction	Secession, the war, emancipation & the 14th Amendment, reconstructing the south
4	Transforming the Nation	Second industrial revolution, western frontier, urbanization, the Gilded Age
5	Becoming a World Power	Progressive movement & World War I

Portfolios

As part of their NUAMES graduation requirements, students are required to create a portfolio. In preparation, I have students build a portfolio over the course of each year so that they have the skills and documents necessary for their senior capstone portfolio. Each term students will be asked to showcase the skills and assignments they enjoyed and did well on during the term. Instructions will be provided each term for specific requirements. Please help encourage your students to keep & organize their work to facilitate this assignment.

About Me

My name is Nichole Spencer. I graduated from the University of Utah with a Bachelor's Degree in History and a Master's of Arts Degree in Teaching. This will be my fourth year teaching at NUAMES and I'm so happy to be a part of the NUAMES family! While I obviously love history, I also recognize that not everyone shares my passion. That being said, I truly believe that studying history is important for everyone, not only for the lessons that can be learned but especially because of the skills it develops—critical thinking, analysis, recognizing perspective and bias, etc. These are some of the things I hope to teach your students as we move our way through different movements and events that are important to our county's history this year.

Contact Me

Email:	nspencer@dtdmail.net I will usually respond within a school day to emails.
Website:	http://cliqcornerhistory.weebly.com/ A lot of information about what's going on in class can be found on my website. Check in regularly to keep up to date.
In Person:	Tuesday-Thursday from 2:40-3:00 p.m. or by appointment

In Person: Tues.—Thurs. from 2:40-3:10pm or by appointment

Expectations

Classroom Policies

Just so that you are aware, I expect the following from my students:

1. Show RESPECT to Mrs. Spencer, classmates, yourself, and the facility.
 2. Come PREPARED to class every day.
 3. Electronic devices must remain silenced and out of hand in class. If caught using them inappropriately, I have a "1...2...3...it's out" policy. First is a warning, second I'll confiscate the item and keep it until the end of class. Third time, the item will be given to the administration and parents notified.
 4. I have a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for plagiarism and cheating. This means that if caught, students receive an automatic zero for the assignment, you will be notified, and additional disciplinary actions may be taken.
 5. Most importantly, students should do their best and keep a POSITIVE attitude.
- ** I also retain the right to amend this list as needed.

Absences

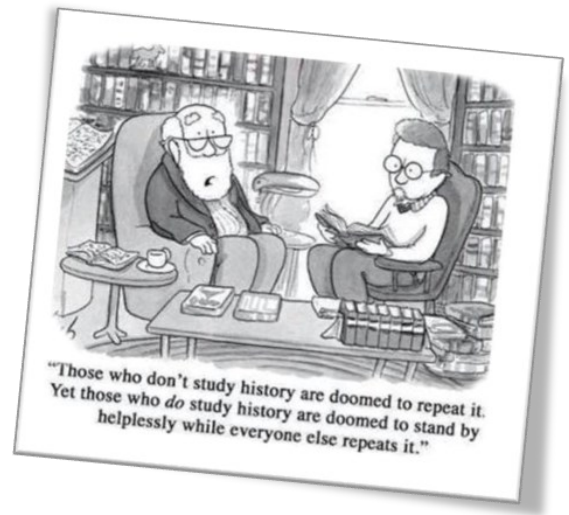
Although absences due to sickness are unavoidable, please try to encourage and en-

sure that your student is in class consistently. Too many absences or tardies tends to take a toll on the academic workload and can add undue stress to students.

When absences occur, please help ensure that you clear them with the office, as unexcused absences may forfeit the school policy for make-up work and will hurt their citizenship grade. Also, keep in mind the new school attendance policy regarding what constitutes excessive absences/tardies. (See the Student Handbook for details)

Extra Credit

Extra credit is offered every term. It is up to students to choose how much, if any, extra credit to do. Check the class website to see what possible options there are for each term as well as all associated due dates.



Required Materials

Portfolio

- 3-ring binder (usually 1-1.5 inch)
- Set of 5-dividers (can be made or bought)

Daily

- Writing instrument & lined paper
- Folder for homework & handouts
- 4 highlighters in different colors (may use colored pencils, but not pens)



Grades

A	90-100%	H	25+
B	80-89%	S	16-24
C	70-79%	N	11-15
D	60-69%	U	0-10
F	0-59%		

** +/- grades not shown—see student syllabus for full details

Academic

Term grades will consist of:

- Assignments 30%
- Projects 25%
- Quizzes & Tests 25%
- Participation 20%

Within each category, grades are based on a point system that vary from assignment to assignment.

Rubrics will be provided for larger projects so that students can see the total point value as well as the breakdown for associated smaller assignments/pieces. Grades are not rounded up in this class and are only changed when I have made an error. Please have students contact me immediately to address mistakes. In order to alter term grades, I must be notified by mid-term after the term in question or by the end of June for fourth term.

Citizenship

Because I believe in being an active and engaged citizen in whatever community you are a part of, a student's citizenship grade can also affect their participation grade.

Students begin each quarter with 25/25 citizenship points. Students can gain points for contributing to a positive classroom experience and providing extra assistance during class activities. It is entirely possible to earn more than 25 points in a term which then becomes extra credit. Vice versa, students can also lose citizenship points for violating classroom policies, or disruptive behavior such as being tardy to class (1pts/tardy) or lack of participation including having unexcused absences (3pts/absence). All other infractions or additions will be determined by Mrs. Spencer according to situation.

Syllabus Sign-Off

After reviewing this with your student, please complete the syllabus sign-off form found on the class website. **This is an assignment, so please do so before next class.**