

MERCYHURST PREPARATORY SCHOOL
SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY – COLLEGE BOUND
2011-2012 SYLLABUS
MS. Carla R. BETTI

TEXTS

Boorstin and Kelley. A History of the United States. Ginn and Company.

CLASS OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Modern American History is a year-long interdisciplinary class. The course is constructed to examine and analyze history through a thematic approach, beginning with the background on World War I (causes and consequences) and concluding with a look to the millennium. Students will individually and collectively examine the major epochs of the Americas while evaluating social, political and economic trends throughout the global society. Topics dealing with music, art and drama, which are integral to a study of history, will also be assessed.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Study Skills

- listening
- taking notes from a lecture
- studying from your notes
- test taking strategies for objective and essay tests
- how to use your textbook
- how to write a position paper
- how to summarize a magazine article
- how to use resources responsibly

Social Science Skills

- identifying and locating a variety of sources of information
- identifying main idea and supporting details in print and nonprint sources
- using precise summary notes and proper documentation
- categorizing research information by:
 - *selecting appropriate headings for your information
 - *distinguishing between relevant and irrelevant information
 - *developing charts, tables and graphs to clarify ideas
- making generalizations from your information
- speaking and writing effectively
 - *talking in complete sentences
 - *keeping to the topic
 - *using appropriate visuals
 - *spending sufficient time in planning and preparation for the presentation
 - *thinking logically

*communicating ideas coherently

*using a format that includes an introductory element, a body containing the basis of the exposition and conclusion

Problem Solving Skills

- identifying and clarifying a problem
- the collection and the evaluation of data related to the problem

TOPICS FOR IN-DEPTH COVERAGE 2011-2012

The Causes and Effects of World War I
The World Economic Situation 1920 – 1929
The Clouds of War
The Rise of Fascism
The Nazi Party
Nationalism in Asia
Isolationism in America
War Comes to the United States
War and Victory in Europe and in the Pacific
Post War Problems

The Atomic Bomb
The Cold War
Eisenhower's Administration
Turbulent Times 1961-1974
LBJ from the Great Society to Vietnam
The Rise and fall of Richard Nixon
In Pursuit of Civil Rights for All
Changing Leaders in Washington
The Emergence of the New World
The Mysterious Future

GLOBAL UPDATES

Format: Newsweek, "Title", date, page.

The format for this assignment will include at least a three paragraph summary in your own words as well as opinion of the article also in your own words. This assignment is required to be typed.

Global Issues play a major part in our lives and will be discussed regularly. Students should watch, listen to and/or read the news on a daily basis.

GRADING SCALE

The grading scale, as published in the MPS handbook, will be applied. Late homework will not be accepted. * Homework gone over in class will not be accepted for a late grade. Late assignments will be devalued one full grade per class. ** All work will receive a numerical grade. *Homework will be defined as a short term assignment, given one day, due the next class. **Assignments will be defined as longer term assignments when multiple days are given to complete the task. See rules for more information.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A WONDERFUL YEAR!!
MS. BETTI