

**MERCYHURST PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

**HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS - PART II HONORS  
2011-2012 SYLLABUS  
MS. Carla R. BETTI**

**TEXTS**

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

Bailey and Kennedy. The American Pageant. D.C. Heath and Company.

A Class Novel

**CLASS OBJECTIVES AND GOALS**

History of the Americas Honors Part II is a year-long interdisciplinary course designed to meet the requirements in Junior Social Studies Honors program. The course is structured to consider history through a thematic approach, beginning with Sectionalism up to and including the Pre-World War I Era. Students will individually and collectively examine the major epoch of the Americas while evaluating social, political and economic trends throughout. 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 utilize 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 nonprinting 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 proficiently
  - \*talking in complete sentences
  - \*keeping to the topic

- \*using appropriate visuals
- \*spending sufficient time in planning and preparation for the presentation
- \*thinking rationally
- \*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 Industrial Revolution

The Rise of the West

The Cotton Kingdom

The Age of Reform

War With Mexico

The Compromise of 1850

The Nation Comes Apart

The Failure of the Politicians

The Civil War

Reconstruction

The Passing of the Frontier

Native American Resettlement

The Nation Transformed

Railroads and Big Business

Labor Begins to Organize

The Challenges of the Cities

Politics in the Gilded Age

Democratic Reforms and World Power

The United States and the Progressive Era

### **GLOBAL UPDATES**

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

Summary is in your own words and opinion of the article in your opinion. The length is three summary paragraphs and one opinion paragraph.

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.

Students should keep a copy of all computer generated work in their server folder at MPS. They should also keep a hard copy of all other work until the final grade period is posted. In the event of a missing or lost assignment, the burden of proof rests with the student. Place all assignments in my hand not on a desk.

### **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.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A WONDERFUL YEAR!!  
MS. BETTI

