

## **Belchertown High School - U.S. History II - Room 309 - Ms. Captein - 2008-2009**

Description: U.S. History II provides a periodic review of U.S. History I, but focuses on American history from the years after Reconstruction through the present day. Throughout the year, academic excellence and responsible citizenship will be both fostered and expected. By studying history, you will learn more about American life, helping you become a more productive contributor to society.

### **Benefits:** You will:

- Develop reading, writing, and speaking skills
- Participate in activities that encourage leadership
- Use critical & creative thinking strategies to develop reasoning & problem solving skills
- Acquire, process, and utilize information from a variety of resources, including the internet
- Study the chronological order of events and recognize cause and effect in history.
- Realize that people are affected by their environment, background, and era.
- Recognize the importance of individuals.
- Discuss current events
- Understand and exercise your rights and responsibilities as citizens
- Appreciate subject matter across the curriculum

**Textbook:** *The Americans* (McDougal Little) - Please treat it well.

### **Materials needed:**

- Binder with paper (you can have multiple subjects in the same binder)
- Pen and or pencil
- Covered book (You will *not* need to bring your textbook to class on a daily basis)

### **The Study Guide:**

- You will receive a study guide for every chapter.
- You will need your study guide to do your homework.
- You need to keep your study guide in a safe place; **I do not hand out replacement study guides.**

### **Major Tests:**

- Midterm Exam: Taken in January, it covers the material studied in the first half of the year.
- Final Exam: Taken in June, it covers the material studied in the second half of the year.
- The final exam grade on your report card is the average of the midterm and final exam scores.

### **Extra Help:**

If you ever need any extra help, please see me before school, during my directed study hall: \_\_\_\_\_, or after school (by appointment).

### **Benefits of Doing YOUR best:**

- Pride, Confidence, Reference / Recommendation letters, Oriole VIP, and the Honor Roll

### **Assessment and Grading System:**

20% Homework:

- Generally, but not always, due every other day. Often, homework assignments are simply checked.
- Homework is **not accepted late unless you have an excused absence**
- Homework assignments are graded as follows:

5 = All questions answered / brief, correct answers that include supporting details.

4 = All questions answered / brief, but mostly correct, answers that provide basic details

3 = Incomplete (about half of the questions are answered OR all are answered, but without basic details)

2 = Incomplete (approximately a quarter of the questions are answered)

1 = Incomplete (a few questions are answered)

NOTE: Often, we will go over homework in class. **It is YOUR responsibility to ensure your homework answers are correct.**

20% Classwork: Assignments that are started in class including:

- Cartoon evaluations, maps, primary source readings, open response questions, etc.
- Typically, **there are very few C/W assignments, so each assignment is very valuable.**

50% Assessments - including both tests, quizzes, and small projects, including essays

- Quizzes are like short tests / they focus on a particular section of homework
- You will have a test once every two or three weeks.
- Often, there is one small project per quarter

10% Participation (in accordance to the school's mission statement and expectations)