# **College Preparatory United States History and Government**

Instructor: Mr. Kevin Comtois Email Address: kcomtois@ndatyngsboro.org

***Description:***

United States History and Government / Grade: 11 Full Year

This course provides an overview of American History from the Revolutionary War to the present. We will investigate the social, political, cultural and economic developments throughout this period of time focusing special attention on evolving democratic trends, reform movements in the Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries, and the expression of US influence around the globe. Assignments will include one research paper each quarter. Special emphasis will be placed on writing argumentative essays.

***Required Texts:***

1. Danzer et al., The Americans, c 2003 McDougal Little
2. The American Reader: Words That Moved a Nation 2nd Rev ed. Edition

Diane Ravitch Paperback: 656 pages / Publisher: William Morrow Paperbacks; 2nd Rev ed. edition (September 5, 2000) ISBN-10: 0062737333 / ISBN-13: 978-0062737335

***Additional Materials***:

1) Three ringed binder for notes, tests and class materials

 2) Blank lined paper for binder

 Please Note:

 Class notes and discussions will be an integral part of preparation for exams.

 Other articles and information may be added to the curriculum and will be available on the website: www.kevincomtois.com

***Course Learning Outcomes:***

*Course Outcomes*

At the end of the year, each student will be able to demonstrate the following through verbal and written communication:

1. Identify important people in the history of the United States,
2. Chronologically trace many of the significant events from colonization to the Bush-Obama Era
3. Describe the political, social, and economic changes that took place between colonization and the Obama-Trump era,
4. Explain the impact that these social, political and economic change had on the people of the United States,
5. Interpret cultural artifacts such as political documents, literature, speeches, art, and songs,
6. Analyze and synthesize conflicting information from a variety of historical documents with different ideological approaches.

*Major themes of course*

1. The reasons and result of European colonization of the American continent
2. The growth of a unique American cultural, economic and political system
3. The causes and results of the American Revolution
4. The creation of the American Constitution
5. The Jeffersonian era of conflicting philosophies: agrarianism vs. industrialization
6. The effect of territorial expansion and the growth of nationalism
7. The era of Andrew Jackson and the expansion of democracy and economic diversity
8. The politics, economics and culture of American slavery
9. The political, economic and social causes of the Civil War
10. Reconstruction and its effects on American Culture
11. Changes on the western frontier from the Civil War to Wounded Knee
12. Immigration, Industrialization and Progressive Social Reform to the turn of the 19th century
13. The Causes and Effects of World War One
14. American Culture and Politics of the 1920s
15. The Great Depression, the New Deal and their impact on American Culture and politics
16. The causes of World War II, American Culture following the war and the Cold War
17. The Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam and the changes on the 1960s
18. American politics and culture from Watergate to the Conservative resurgence of the 1980s
19. Politics, economics and culture from George HW Bush to Barack Obama

Students successfully completing this course will be able to think conceptually about U.S. History from approximately the 1490s to the present and apply historical thinking skills as they learn about the past.

***Teaching Procedures:***

This course is structured around a complete examination of United States history. Because participation is an essential element of the American experiment with democracy, participation in every class is also essential to your success as a student. Before each class, students should have read each chapter and/or any other material assigned for that day. Each class will begin with a number of terms and questions that are available on that directly relate to the assigned readings. The class will together discuss the meaning of the terms and answer the questions. Students will be expected to participate in the class discussions by asking questions and expressing observations about the material at hand (and in the text). The instructor will make sure the discussion stays focused on the subject of the day. Students are required to take detailed notes.

Questions from students are encouraged in order to stimulate independent thinking about how this material relates to current American government and politics.

***Grading Policy:***

 **Exams:** 40%

Multiple choice, matching and essay questions based on the text, readings, lectures, and discussions

**Quizzes:** 30%

Weekly quizzes based on the reading assignments

 **Homework**: 20%

Homework will consist of worksheets that request term/name definition and short essays; homework will also include answering questions based on documents such as speeches, book excerpts, songs and poems

 **Quarterly Essays:** 10%

 Information will be provided

**Final Exam**

A cumulative exam is required at the end of the year

**Late Policy:** An assignment that is late loses 10 points (out of a hundred) for each class day that the assignment is late. If an assignment is turned at the end of the day (instead of in class) the assignment will lose 5 points.

**Class Participation:**  Class notes and discussions will be an integral part of the exams. Students must attend class. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain any missed notes due to an absence.

**Make- Up Policy:**A missed test is to be replaced by a make-up exam or a 10 - 12 page paper (method of make-up and subject of paper to be determined by instructor). It is each student’s responsibility to contact the instructor to schedule the makeup exam or to receive the essay topic and due dates.

**Student Accountability***:* Cheating on tests or plagiarism on essays will not be tolerated. If any student is caught cheating they will immediately fail the exam or quiz and may be reported to the proper school authorities.