

Name of Course – U.S. History

Course Length – 2 Semester Course

Class Textbook/Materials – The American Journey (Early Years), Glencoe, 2009, ISBN – 978-0-07-877715-8

Description of the course – The study of United States history from European exploration through the Civil War era.

Course content and learning objectives – – Students will trace the history of North America from the arrival of the Columbus in the 15th century through the late 19th century. The periods studied will cover Chapters 3 through 20.

The objectives of the course are to:

1. Familiarize students with key people and events in America
2. Develop a basic understanding of American Civil Rights and Liberties
3. Develop an understanding of economic life of Americans
4. Expand their knowledge of American geography and the environment
5. Discuss the value of conflict and cooperation between Americans and the world
6. Investigate the impact of technology on our world
7. Explore the influence of families, ideas, beliefs and institutions on the development of 19th century America
8. Evaluate the influence of 19th century America as a developing world power.

Units to be studied:

Early Colonization of America
American Revolutionary Period
Creation of the Constitution and Government
National Growth/Industrial Revolution
Civil War Period
Reconstruction/Industrialization/Globalization

Daily/weekly assignments, grading procedures, and special projects Each unit will be covered using various methods of study. Reading is the major factor to preparation for the study U.S. history. Students are required to read and take notes to aid in comprehension, retention, and organization of material. Methods of assessment will consist of class discussion, reading guides, research projects, quizzes/tests, reflective, persuasive, and expository essays, and cooperative group work such as interaction activities, presentations, and debates.

Grades will be based on cumulative points for the following: homework, in-class work, participation, tests, quizzes, and projects.

Procedures for Placement from 8th grade to High School – Placement will be determined by recommendations from GMS US History teachers. Said recommendations will then be sent to GHS for final recommendations/placements prior to registration.

According to Geneseo CUSD #228 School Board Policy 6:60 and in compliance with Illinois School Code:

- In kindergarten through grade 8, subjects include: (a) language arts, (b) reading, (c) other communication skills, (d) science, (e) mathematics, (f) social studies, (g) art, (h) music, and (i) drug and substance abuse prevention.
- In all grades, character education must be taught including respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship in order to raise students' honesty, kindness, justice, discipline, respect for others, and moral courage.
- In all schools, citizenship values must be taught, including: (a) patriotism, (b) democratic principles of freedom, justice, and equality, (c) proper use and display of the American flag, (d) the Pledge of Allegiance, and (e) the voting process.
- In all schools, United States history must be taught, including: (a) the principles of representative government, (b) the Constitutions of the U.S. and Illinois, (c) the role of the U.S. in world affairs, (d) the role of labor unions, and (e) the role and contributions of ethnic groups, including but not limited to, the African Americans, Albanians, Asian Americans, Bohemians, Czechs, French, Germans, Hispanics (including the events related to the forceful removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S. citizens during the Great Depression), Hungarians, Irish, Italians, Lithuanians, Polish, Russians, Scots, and Slovaks in the history of this country and State.

In addition, all schools shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on Constitution Day, each September 17, commemorating the September 17, 1787 signing of the Constitution. However, when September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, Constitution Day shall be held during the preceding or following week.

- In all schools, the curriculum includes a unit of instruction on the history, struggles, and contributions of women.
- In all schools, the curriculum includes a unit of instruction on Black History, including the history of the African slave trade, slavery in America, and the vestiges of slavery in this country, as well as the struggles and contributions of African-Americans.