

## Melrose High School Syllabus

**Department:** Social Studies

**Course Title:** 312 & 323 United States History 1

**Course Description:** This course examines the creation and growth of the United States from 1763 to the rise of the Gilded Age. Topics include the American Revolution, Constitution, rise of political parties, early national period, manifest destiny, reform movement, the Age of Jackson, the Civil War and Reconstruction. The course will look to balance the growth of governmental power, with an examination of the rights and privileges of the average person. Students are expected to complete four document-based questions as well as a summative research paper (4-6 pages in college prep and 5-7 in honors). Students are also expected to complete 2-3 hours per week of independent practice such as homework, reading and projects in college prep and 3-5 hours per week in honors.

### **MHS Learning Expectations:**

- Write effectively using standard written English.
- Demonstrate the ability to read effectively.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively.
- Demonstrate good citizenship.
- Demonstrate an understanding of tolerance and diversity, and respect for themselves, others and their school.

### **Essential Questions:**

- What is the American dream?
- What does it mean to be American?
- What rights and privileges should people living in a country be guaranteed?
- What role should government play in the lives of citizens?
- Does the United States have a mission/responsibility to expand freedom and democracy?
- What responsibility does the majority have in protecting the rights of minorities in a democratic society?

<b><u>Students will know:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● How did European colonies form and develop into societies?</li><li>● Causes, results, and effects of the American Revolution.</li><li>● Fundamentals of Constitution, principles of American government</li><li>● Growth and expansion of US</li><li>● Causes, results, and effects of Civil War</li></ul>	<b><u>Students will be able to:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Research Paper</li><li>● Cite Evidence</li><li>● DBQ Sequence write a response using documents about a specific topic</li><li>● Develop mapping skills including geography of US</li></ul>
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**Course Outline:**

<b>Quarter I</b>	<b>Quarter II</b>
The American Colonies Emerge The Colonies Come of Age The War for Independence	Shaping A New Nation The Living Constitution Launching the New Nation
<b>Quarter III</b>	<b>Quarter IV</b>
Balancing Nationalism and Sectionalism Reforming American Society Expanding Markets and Moving West	The Union in Peril The Civil War Reconstruction and its Effects

**Primary Course Materials:**

**Textbook:** *The Americans*. 2007 McDougal Littell. Students may sign out a copy of the textbook to use at home, in addition to the class set provided for use in school. All students will receive access to an online textbook. All borrowed textbooks are due back in school on the day of the final exam.

Other materials: various primary source documents, videos clips, and historical sources.

**Student Materials:** notebook dedicated solely to U.S. History, with a folder or three-ring binder to save classwork/homework/handouts.

**Grade Determination:** The grades for each term will be determined using a weighted point system. Grades are based on class participation, homework assignments and assessments which may include: projects, tests, quizzes, and essays.

**Major Assignments:** The major assignments for this course include : 4 document-based questions, as well as a research paper, midyear, and final exam.

**Midyear & Final Exams:** Midyear and Final Exams will be given. These exams count as 10% of the respective semester grade. The average of the first and second quarter grades will count 90% in determining the first semester average. Similarly, the second semester average will include the average of third and fourth quarter grades at 90% and final exam at 10%. The average for the entire year will be the average of both semesters.

Q1 = 22.5%    Q2 = 22.5%    Midterm = 5%    Q3 = 22.5%    Q4 = 22.5%    Final = 5%