

## United States History II – Mrs. Carver

### COURSE OVERVIEW:

In this course we will study the development of the United States from the early 1900s to today. The course will concentrate on building a greater understanding of the United States' social, economic and political development. We will analyze both historical and current events in order to build connections between the past and the present.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING PROCEDURES:

#### ✓ **GENERAL RULES & EXPECTATIONS:**

You are expected to:

1. **Follow school rules and behave appropriately.** Disrespectful and/or disruptive behavior is not conducive to learning.
2. **Respect yourself and those around you AND respect the opinions of others.** Discussion will be a fundamental part of this class; it is important that we “agree to disagree” in a civil manner.
3. **Come to class on time and prepared** (supplies, homework, etc.) Bring your book, notebook, binder, laptop and something to write with for every class. Have assignments completed for the start of class.
4. **Work hard and try your best.** All students are capable of doing well in this class and I am there to assist you along the way. See me if there are times when you have questions and/or concerns that I should know about.

#### ✓ **PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE:**

Participation and attendance are essential to doing well in class. When you are in class, you are expected to be actively involved in what is happening in class (listening, reading, working, etc.). You will need to attend class to receive credit and to fully understand and participate in what is going on.

#### ✓ **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:**

During the course of the year, you will be required to complete various assignments. **EVERYTHING** you do in class will count toward your grade. Below is an outline of possible assignments that you will be required to complete during each marking period. Keep in mind that this is an outline and not a final list of all assignments.

#### Assignments:

Journals & Quick Writes – will be passed in and graded as a group  
Online Assignments – includes discussion forums & activities located on class wikispace  
In-Class Assignments – independent and group assignments  
Homework - will be assigned regularly. Missing homework cannot be made up unless you are absent.  
Quizzes - both announced and unannounced (pop quizzes).  
Tests (2 - 3 per marking period)  
Current Event Assignment (at least 1 per marking period )  
Short Writing Assignments (2-3 pages each, 1 per marking period)  
Research Paper (5-8 pages, 1 per year)  
Multimedia Projects – using various laptop & online tools (wikispace, VoiceThread, Keynote, etc.)  
Oral Presentations, Debates and Discussions

**Grading Breakdown:** (this breakdown is an approximation only; it may change throughout the year)

All assignments will be recorded in the grade book if they are collected. Grade averages can change greatly as work is assigned, corrected and recorded in Power School. It is important for all students and parents/guardians to get the password for Power School and to check averages as the year goes.

- “*Practice Work*” (PW) assignments are not given a number grade but are assigned to help you better understand the content. These assignments will be recorded and also collectively used give one overall number grade to be averaged along with assessments.
- “*Regularly Graded Assessments*” (RGA) will be given a number grade based on a 4 point scale.

### **Retake Policy**

Retakes are only allowed on a case-by-case basis, pending extenuating circumstances. You need to expect to study and do your best the first time. See me for help before test.

- Practice work needs to be completed prior to the original assessment.
- The situation must be discussed BEFORE completion of the assessment.
- Extenuating circumstances include situations such as a death in the family, a medical situation and/or other similar major events.

### **Late Work**

Completing assignments on time is very important. Assignments (practice work & RGAs) are given along side what is being studied in class and thus are time sensitive. Late work is not accepted. Work should be handed in by the beginning of class the day it is due. Anything submitted after that time will not be scored and will count as a ZERO in the grade book.

## **✓ ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND EFFORT:**

An honest effort in your work is essential for you to understand the main objects as well as for you to earn the grade that reflects this effort. If there are times when you may not understand the material or assignments. This is when you need to ask in class or see me outside of class. I am willing to assist anyone who is needs and/or wants such assistance.

- Integrity is important in everything we do. Any copying or sharing of answers on homework, assessments, or exams will be viewed as cheating. The only exception is if I explicitly state that the work is a “cooperative learning” learning. If in doubt, ask.
- “Plagiarism” is a form of cheating. Direct copying of another’s work also includes “cut and paste” from the internet.

## **✓ CLASS WEBSITE:      <http://mvhsamericanhistoryclass.wikispaces.com/>**

You can use the site to check for assignments and download worksheets, PowerPoint lectures, etc. This site is an extra resource – it does not relieve you of the responsibility to take notes in class and keep organized. I will make every attempt to update the site on a regular basis; however, I cannot guarantee that all assignments, worksheets, PowerPoint notes, etc. will be uploaded to the site. It is ultimately YOUR responsibility to copy assignments in class and keep organized with your handouts.

You will need to have a computer signed out to you. Some assignments will require that you use your laptop to create and gather information. If there is an issue regarding access to the internet, you must let me know right from the start of an assignment. You may need to stay after school if you do not have access at home or have no study halls.

## ✓ UNITS OF STUDY:

There are six major units of study.

1. The Progressive Era & World War I
2. Roaring 20's & Depressing 30's
3. World War II & Early Cold War
4. Postwar America & Civil Rights Movement
5. The Turbulent 60's & Stagnant 70's
6. Modern America

*Each unit includes a bank of "essential knowledge" questions that you will be able to answer at the end of each unit. It is important to keep track of the questions and their answers.*

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### **Contact Information**

Please ask me if you're not sure of something. A two-minute conversation can clear up a lot of confusion.

1. My school phone number and extension is 364-4547 ext. 220. My email is:  
[dcarver@msad43.org](mailto:dcarver@msad43.org).
2. You must check Powerschool often (not everyday) to get a look at assignments that have been checked in and/or graded. There will usually be a due date attached as well as a short description.
3. I am usually here after-school much pass 2:25. Check in with me if you need some time after-school for clarification and/or assistance.
4. All of the above options discussed above are also available for parents/guardians to use also. Powerschool passwords are available for parents/guardians by contacting the guidance department. If a parent/guardian wants to stop at 2:25 and touch base, that would be fine too.
5. Each student as well as their parent/guardian must sign the Expectations Verification form. This form is attached to this syllabus and verifies that it has been read.



## Expectations Verification Form

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please read through the syllabus given to your child and then fill-out and sign this form. Students then need to also sign it and bring it back for next class. If you have any questions and/or concerns now or later, please call, email or stop in to speak with me.

Your role as a parent/guardian is very important and I am here to try to work both your child and you to make this a good and productive year.

Thank You,

Debbie Carver  
Mountain Valley High School  
Social Studies Department

Student Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian(s) Names Printed (with phone numbers & email address if available):

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*From the parent/guardian to the teacher:*

Here is some information that I would like you to know about my child:

[illegible]