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# HONORS US HISTORY SYLLABUS

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“KNOW YOUR RIGHTS”

**Mr. Isherwood**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Semester – with Mr. White**



This course surveys the history and government of the United States of America. The course is intended to familiarize you with the major events and figures of the American history that influenced the changing social, political, economic, and cultural makeup of the country. The course begins with a focus on the government of the United States, how it works, how it came about, and how it has developed over time. Historically, the primary focus course will be a study of recent contemporary history particularly the twentieth and early twenty first centuries.

In this class I have several important objectives. The first is to provide you with a general understanding of modern American history. A second goal of this class will be to strengthen your analytical skills as you read, listen, discuss, and write about aspects and interpretations of the past. A final and important goal will be to demonstrate to you the importance, worth, and enjoyment of studying the history of your country.





## **Instructor Information**

Name: Paul Isherwood  
Classroom: International Studies Room

Email: [isherwoodp@lakeridgeacademy.org](mailto:isherwoodp@lakeridgeacademy.org)

## **Course Objectives**

Each student will:

- Have a broad knowledge of historical developments in the modern United States, in particular recent historical trends.
- Demonstrate an understanding of historical chronology.
- Use historical data to support an argument or position.
- Interpret and apply data from original documents.
- Develop critical thinking skills.
- Demonstrate an ability to research a historical topic around a central thesis.
- Have a strong working knowledge of the court system and basic jurisprudence.

## **Course Website**

There is no textbook for this course. All material for this course is provided through the course website:

[www.lraushistory.weebly.com](http://www.lraushistory.weebly.com)

## **Discussion and Participation**

Your involvement in the class will be crucial to its success. The study of history, in my opinion, has little to do with the rote memorization of dates and factoids. What is most important is the construction of arguments based on analysis and interpretation. The ability to convey these arguments verbally is crucial and I hope we will have a lively discussion of America's past.

## **Tests**

We will have regular in-class quizzes. These are designed to make sure you are keeping up with the reading and understanding the material. Your scores will contribute to your overall final grade in the class.

There will be an essay-based exam before winter break.

## **Assignments**

There will be a variety of assignments throughout the year including in-class essay. The major project for the year will be research paper.

### **Research Project**

The focus of this course is all about the rights that Americans and those living here have. To further your knowledge of this area you will choose, with the aid of Mr. Isherwood, one of the rights or Supreme Court cases discussed in class complete a research paper on that topic. The paper will require you to gain access to material outside of school.

### **Twitter Quizzes**

Every B day we will pause from our content and take a look at current affairs. In order to ensure you are keeping up with the news cycle I will “tweet” out news stories that you should read. You do not need to have a Twitter account to read the stories. We will start the B day class with a quick online Twitter Quiz to ensure that you read and understand the stories. From there we will discuss what is sure to be an interesting few months in American and international politics.

## **Homework**

Homework will generally consist of reading assignments, but from time to time will also include a variety of written assignments.

## **Grading Policy**

Numerical Grades Translate to Letter Grades as follows:

- A-range** - Excels – Full command of and facility with lecture and reading material with the ability to place it within larger historical context.
- B-range** – Good – Very solid understanding of material but without complete command or contextualization of it
- C-range** – Fair – Some understanding of major themes, lack of command with detail, or some understanding of detail but lack of contextual understanding.
- D-range** – Poor – Enough factual understanding to pass, but little to no contextual understanding.
- F-range** – Fails – Lack of Upper School level quality.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

You are expected to arrive to class on time. All cell phones should be switched off. Be prepared to answer questions from the instructor. If you are unsure of something during the class raise your hand and ask.

### **Academic Integrity Policy:**

Academic misconduct - dishonesty or deception in fulfilling any academic requirement, includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, un-permitted collaboration, forged attendance (when attendance is required), fabrication (e.g., use of invented information or falsification of research or other findings), or knowingly permitting another student to plagiarize or cheat from one's work – will result in serious consequences. **Cases of academic dishonesty in this class will result in a grade of zero for the assignment in question and an immediate referral to the Dean of Students and Honor Council.**

### **Alterations and Changes:**

I reserve the right to alter or amend the course as I deem necessary. All changes will be related to you in a timely fashion.



## Course Outline

### **FIRST SEMESTER**

#### **Introduction**

The Lost Art of Civil Discourse

#### **The American Revolution – A Question of Rights**

What was Revolutionary about the Revolution?

#### **The Constitution and its Amendments**

What does the Constitution and Bill of Rights do for me?

The Civil War – From the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>

The Progressive Era – From the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>

#### **The Modern Age**

City Life – Changes in life, Changes in Rights?

The 1920s

The Great Depression and New Deal

#### **The Liberal Heyday**

The Great Society – A Newer Deal

The Rights Revolution – The Court and Modern -Life

#### **The Conservative Age**

What is Conservatism?

The 1970s – Vietnam, Watergate and the Crisis of Confidence

The Age of Reagan

The Clinton Years

#### **9/11 and Beyond**

What Happened on September 11, 2001

The Response – A War on Terror

### **SECOND SEMESTER**

**New course – Know Your Rights**