

Randleman High School  
American History II Course Syllabus  
Aaron Bowman  
336-498-2682, ext. 45204  
[abowman@randolph.k12.nc.us](mailto:abowman@randolph.k12.nc.us)



**Course Pre-requisite:** Civics and Economics

**Course Description:** American History II will guide students from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century time period through the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Students will examine the political, economic, social and cultural development of the United States from the end of the Reconstruction era (1877) to modern day. American History II will trace the change in the ethnic composition of American society; the movement toward equal rights for racial minorities and women; and the role of the United States as a major world power. An emphasis is placed on the expanding role of the federal government and federal courts as well as the continuing tension between the individual and the state. The desired outcome of this course is for students to develop an understanding of the cause-and-effect relationship between past and present events, recognize patterns of interactions, and understand the impact of events on the United States in an interconnected world.

**The Purpose:** This course has been designed to provide a framework for studying political, social, economic, and cultural issues, and for analyzing the impact these issues have had on American society over time. Students will continue to build upon previous studies of American History, the fundamental concepts in civics and government, economics, culture and geography and use skills of historical analysis as they examine American history. This course goes beyond memorization of isolated facts to the development of higher level thinking skills, encouraging students to make historical assessments and evaluations.

**Reading Expectations:** You will be expected to read and interpret several primary and secondary sources throughout the course. This will include, but is not limited to, political cartoons, speeches, maps, charts, and written accounts of historical events. As the student you will be expected to know how to apply information from these sources to historical events. Mastering this skill will not only help you master the course, but it will make you a better communicator. If you want to be successful in life, you must know how to communicate.

**History is the study of change over time.**

**Required Textbooks/Materials:**

Appleby, Joyce, Alan Brinkley, Albert Broussard, James McPherson, Donald Ritchie. The American Vision Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. 2008.

Additional Reading Resources will be supplied by the teacher as needed.

Notebook, pencils, pens

**Grading Policy:**

Major Assessments (Tests/Major Projects/Major Quizzes) = 60%

Minor Assessments (Classwork/Small Projects/Minor Quizzes) = 40%

**Grading Scale:**

100 - 90 = A

89 - 80 = B

79 - 70 = C

69 - 60 = D

59 and below = F

**\*The final grade will be calculated as follows:**

Average of the two nine week's grades = 75%

Final exam = 25%

**Course and Instructor Policies:**

Make up work: When a student misses an assignment due to an absence the student is responsible for checking Canvas and/or the missing work folder to complete the assignment.

Extra Credit: Extra Credit assignments will be given at the teacher's discretion.

Late work: Students may turn in late work up until the unit test for a reduced grade. The maximum amount of points you may earn after one day late will be 80. You will be penalized an additional 10 points for each day after that. Honors level classes will be allowed to turn in work one day late with a 20 point deduction.

Behavior: All students are expected to follow the behavior guidelines established by Randolph County Schools and Randleman High School. Any student who fails to follow these guidelines will be subject to the penalties and consequences for failure to follow the rules.

Remediation/tutoring opportunities: Any student who needs remediation or tutoring can receive help before school at 7:30 or on remediation days.

### **Sequence of Units:**

**Unit 1: Post-Civil War (1865 – 1898).** Key topics for this unit will include Reconstruction, 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, Impeachment of Andrew Johnson, the Compromise of 1877, the “forgotten presidents,” the Gilded Age, political and social corruption, Boss Tweed, the Plains Indian wars, the Homestead Act, Dawes Act and the Pacific Railway Act, ranching, mining and farming technology, the Populist Movement.

**Unit 2: Industrialism and Urbanization to Progressivism(1877 – 1917).** Key topics for this unit will include old versus new immigration, innovations, inventions and inventors, the transcontinental railroad, the rise of big business, the rise of the progressive movement, the progressive legislation of Presidents, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, and Woodrow Wilson.

**Unit 3: Imperialism, World War I and the 1920s (1914 – 1929).** Key topics for this unit will include the Spanish-American War, Big Stick Diplomacy, Dollar Diplomacy, and Moral Diplomacy, the Open Door Policy, the Square Deal, New Federalism and New Freedom causes of WWI, the war on the home-front, industrialized warfare, the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations, consumerism, the Espionage and Sedition Act, the First Red Scare, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the Roaring 20s, Prohibition and Fundamentalism.

**Unit 4: The Great Depression to WWII (1929 – 1945).** Key topics for this unit will include Hoover’s Rugged Individualism, the Great Crash of 1929, Causes of the Great Depression, life during the Depression, FDR’s New Deal, the Dust Bowl, Arts and Entertainment – Hollywood, Totalitarianism, major battles and leaders of WWII, War on the home-front, War Conferences and the United Nations

**Unit 5: Beginnings of the Cold War and the 1950s (1945 – 1960).** Key topics for this unit will include the global competition between the United States and the Soviet Union, the Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine, NATO and the Warsaw Pact, the Berlin Airlift, the Korean War,

Dwight Eisenhower, the Vietnam War, the Second Red Scare and McCarthyism, the U-2 Incident, Sputnik and NASA, 1950s culture and the roots of the Civil Rights Movement.

**Unit 6: The Turbulent 60s (1960 – 1974).** Key topics for this unit will include the election of JFK, the Bay of Pigs Invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Berlin Wall, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, New Frontier, Great Society and New Federalism, 1960s counterculture, Richard Nixon, Vietnamization, Henry Kissinger, Watergate

**Unit 7: The 1970s – 1990s (1974 – 1999).** Key topics for this unit will include the Energy Crisis and Environmental Concerns, Watergate, the Carter Administration and Consumer Protection. Reaganomics, Star Wars, the Iran-Contra Affair, HIV/AIDS, War on Drugs, Crisis in the Middle East – Afghanistan, Persian Gulf War, Terrorism, NAFTA, Impeachment of Bill Clinton, Contract with America, End of the Cold War and Title IX.

**Unit 8: Modern America (2000 – 2020).** Key topics for this unit will include the election of 2000 and Bush v. Gore, 9/11, War on Terrorism, War in Iraq and Afghanistan, President Obama, Immigration reform movement, Health Care battle (the Affordable Health Care Act, aka. Obamacare, growth of cellular and Internet technology. Death of Osama Bin Laden, Identity politics, cancel culture, and the rise of Trump.

The preceding sequences of units are used as a guide only. Adjustments and changes to units of study will be made as Mr. Bowman deems necessary. Each unit will be followed by a test and/or project to assess your knowledge of the material.

The course will finish with a comprehensive review and a final exam.