

**AICE U.S. History**  
**Mr. Wonders**  
**Brentsville District High School**  
**12109 Aden Road**  
**Nokesville, Virginia 20181**  
**(703) 594-2161**

## **SYLLABUS**

### **I. Introduction:**

*Dear Parents and Students,*

I would like to welcome you to a new school year at Brentsville District High School. I am very excited about getting to know each one of you and working together to expand our knowledge of U.S. history over the next nine months. Let us bring all our best to this venture so that we may enjoy and profit from this time together.

### **II. Course Description:**

AICE U.S. History is a challenging course that is meant to be the equivalent of a freshman college course and can earn students college credit and scholarships. It is a year-long survey of American history from the Age of Exploration and Discovery to the Reagan Administration. The aim of the course is to provide a thorough understanding of the major themes of U.S. history, prepare students for the Cambridge A/AS Level Examinations in U.S. History, and the Virginia Standards of Learning exam. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay-writing, interpretation of original documents, and historiography.

In an effort to make the students aware of their cultural heritage we will survey the major political, economic, and social themes of U.S. history. This course of study seeks to better prepare students for the future by using the past and present as models. It is believed that with this information, students will be better able to make intelligent decisions regarding their own lives and carry on the traditions of freedom originally set forth in the Declaration of Independence.

The course will be divided into twelve units:

#### **First Semester**

- Unit 1: Origins through Colonial America
- Unit 2: The Revolutionary Era, 1763-1789
- Unit 3: The Federal Period, 1789-1824
- Unit 4: The Jacksonian Era, 1824-1850
- Unit 5: Civil War and Reconstruction, 1850-1877
- Unit 6: The Gilded Age, 1869-1900

#### **Second Semester**

- Unit 7: Progressivism & World War I, 1900-1919
- Unit 8: The Twenties, 1919-1929
- Unit 9: The Great Depression, 1929-1941
- Unit 10: World War II, 1933-1945
- Unit 12: The Cold War, 1946-1988
- Unit 13: A New World Order, 1988-

### **Evaluation/Grading**

Grades will be determined in accordance with Prince William School Board Policy. The school term is divided into four nine weeks marking periods and two semesters. Students will take a quarterly test at the end of each marking period and a **final exam** covering the entire course at the end of the course. Exemptions to the final examination will be based upon Prince William County School Board Policies; including the passing of the Virginia SOL exam for U.S. history. There are no exemptions for quarterly tests.

1. Students will be evaluated periodically through essays, oral presentations, homework, tests and quizzes.

2. The Prince William County Grading System will be used during this course.

90 - 100	= A	70 - 76	= C
87 - 89	= B+	67 - 69	= D+
80 - 86	= B	60 - 66	= D
77 - 79	= C+	59 & below	= F

4. **There will be no extra credit assignments given.** When students do the required work on a daily basis there is no need for any type of extra credit activity.

### **Make-up Assignments**

1. The **responsibility** for make-up work **lies with the student**. If your absence from class is excused, you have two class periods to complete all make-up work for each day that you miss. You should see Mr. Wonders the class period that you return to school following an absence. You will do so either before or after class/school, but not during class. It is your responsibility to schedule the make-up time for all test and quizzes within the two-day time frame.
2. If you are tardy to school or have an early dismissal that results in missing this class, you should pick up your work on that day. You should also turn in any assignments due that day.
3. If you are absent from a class you will be held responsible for any activities that you might have missed. **It is up to you to obtain the missed material** from Mr. Wonders or from one of your fellow classmates.
4. If you are not in class on scheduled test and essay days, an alternate test will be given to allow other students to receive feedback in an appropriate amount of time. The form of this test may be different but the content tested will be the same.

**Materials Needed:** *Students must have the following supplies by the third class period.*

1. One **three-ring notebook** solely for use in **this class, U.S. History.**
2. **Four Dividers for the Notebook** (*See guidelines for organization*)
3. **Pens (blue or black) and pencils.**
4. **Loose-leaf college ruled notebook paper.**

### **Student Conduct**

1. Students are to be **respectful** to each other and the teacher at all times.
2. Be in your **assigned seat, quiet, and ready to work**/already working when the bell rings. Students not seated in their desks when the tardy bell rings are **considered tardy**.
3. **All cell phones are silenced and placed out of sight in your backpack upon entering the classroom. If I see or hear a cell phone, I will take it and submit it to the front office. Students WILL NOT listen to music or text during class.**
3. Students must remain in their desks until the bell rings at the end of class.
4. Students are encouraged to use the restroom between classes. Students will not be allowed to use the bathroom during periods of instruction but may use the restroom while students are working at their desks. Students with medical conditions will be allowed to use the bathroom as needed. Please alert Mr. Wonders or the school nurse if you have medical requirements.
5. **Eating, drinking (Coffee, soda, etc.), or chewing gum in class will not be permitted. (Water is allowed)**

### **Mr. Wonders' Internet Site**

Mr. Wonders maintains a web site separate from the Brentsville School fusion page. This site may be accessed from the School fusion page or through the link below.

Internet Address: <http://www.historyteacherwonders.weebly.com>

You will find the class syllabus, guidelines, homework, and important documents, and approved internet links for research on this site.

### **Amendments to the Syllabus:**

Since the educational process is not the same for every class or group of students, Mr. Wonders reserves the right to amend this syllabus at any time during the year to ensure that the state, county, and class objectives are met.