

**John F Kennedy High School**  
**Social Science Department Course Syllabus**

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**U.S. History**  
2016-2017

Instructor:	Burke	Room:	D2
Phone:	(916)395-5090 Ext. 506402	Schedule:	Per. 1 – US HISTORY
Available:			Per. 2 –
E-mail	burket@SCUSD.edu		Per. 3 –
			Per. 4 –
			Per. 5 –
			Per. 6 –

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

AGS US History

**DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides Juniors with an awareness of our national heritage. Students will develop a better and deeper understanding of how our country became what it is today. This course explores the story of the United States, including the reflections of people who experienced history firsthand. The nation's history will be studied through the personal voices of ordinary and extraordinary Americans who played a key role in, or were affected by, past events. These accounts, hopefully, will make history come alive as students examine daily life in different eras and discover how the past influences the present. Students will continue to develop their reading, writing, thinking and research skills with the use of primary and secondary sources.

**COURSE GOALS:**

**Subject Matter**

1. become familiar with themes in U.S. History
2. learn key terms, concepts, facts and theories about U.S. History
3. become acquainted with perspectives and value judgments about U.S. History
4. appreciate the importance of U.S. History and the citizen's role

**Higher order thinking**

1. Develop the ability to apply principles and generalizations already learned to new situations
2. Develop the ability to distinguish between fact and opinion

**Basic Academic Success**

1. Improve memory, listening, speaking, reading, writing, and information technology skills
2. Develop and improve study skills, strategies, and habits

**Liberal Arts and Academic Values**

1. Develop an openness to new ideas
2. Develop a more informed historical perspective
3. Increase awareness of the historical experience of minorities and women

**Work and Career Preparation**

1. Improve ability to follow directions, instructions and plans
2. Develop a commitment to personal achievement
3. Improve ability to organize and use time effectively

**Personal Development**

1. Become a more informed consumer of political news
2. Develop the capacity to think for one's self
3. Develop a commitment to one's own values
4. Cultivate a sense of responsibility for one's own behavior
5. Develop respect for others and their viewpoints

## **Course Syllabus (cont.)**

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**REQUIRED MATERIALS:** Students must have their notebook and writing instruments (Pen & Pencil) on a daily basis. The instructor will inform students of days that they will need to bring their textbooks.

**INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES & PROCEDURES:** This class uses a wide variety of assignments and activities to ensure that student learning happens and that the learning is directed at the above goals. Instructional activities & procedures include the techniques below:

- Assigned Reading
- Cooperative Groups
- Group Interaction
- Text book Reading
- Current events
- Discussion, Videos Projects
- Lecture, Lecture/Discussion
- Internet Research
- Interviews, Oral Presentations
- Routine writing

### **EVALUATION PROCEDURES**

The course is based on a weighted point system with Class work/homework 30% of the grade, quizzes/tests/benchmarks 30%, projects/presentations 30%, Class Participation 10%

#### **Letter Grade Value:**

**A = Superior Knowledge (90-100%).**

**B = Above Average Knowledge (80-89%).**

**C = Average Knowledge (70-79%)**

**D = Below Average Knowledge (60-69%)**

**F = Not Enough Knowledge To Justify The Lowest Passing Grade.**

### **POLICIES FOR MAKE-UP WORK**

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to talk to another student or me and find out what you missed. All quizzes and tests must be made up as soon as possible. Unless you are physically unable to study while absent, you must plan on making up the assignment, quiz or test within three school days of your return to school. If you have an extended absence, work will be made up according to an agreed upon schedule with your instructor. Excessive tardies and absences will affect your final grade. Make-up up work will only be permitted for excused absences.

### **CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT**

**The class will operate under rules of conduct consistent with the Hiram Johnson student handbook.**

A) Be on time and ready to go. This includes being in your seat when the bell rings, bringing your notebook and other necessary items for class, and having the attitude that you're here to learn.

B) Adhere to the Social Science department policy on academic honesty.

C) No food or drink (except water) in the classroom.

D) Obvious as it sounds, don't damage the property of the school or your classmates. This includes writing on books desktops or walls.

E) We will be covering a lot of issues where people have different opinions, and therefore it is necessary that we are respectful towards each other. Disrespect in any shape or form is not acceptable, and will negatively affect your grade.

## ***Course Syllabus (cont.)***

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F) While class discussion and student's questions are highly encouraged, raise your hand to be recognized.

G) If you are having difficulty with certain concepts or assignments, please let me know so that I can help out.

H) Get Informed! What you read in the newspaper today will be in the history books in a few years. By getting informed on current events, you'll have a better understanding of the relevance of the issues that we discuss in class.

**Should you have any questions, feel free to call me at 395-5090 Ext. 506402.**

## Course Syllabus (cont.)

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Dear parent or guardian:

In order to be best informed of what your student will be doing in United States History this semester, take a few moments to read the material above explaining my expectations. Once you're finished, please sign and provide a contact number below. I will endeavor to stay in touch with you in regards to your student's progress. E-mail works well for me as a communication tool. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to an outstanding year with your student!

Sincerely,

Terence Burke  
John F Kennedy High School  
(916) 395-5090 Ext. 506402  
email: burket@scusd.edu

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

\*The return of this form is worth 100 class points and is a chance to get a great start in this class!