JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE  

U.S. History (SHS 201 & SHS 202) These courses meet the intent and philosophy of the History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools.

Mr. Messineo, Instructor     Office Phone Number: 916-433-5200 XT 1807  
E-mail Address: vincent-messineo@scusd.edu  

Course 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. Students will continue to develop their reading, writing, thinking and research skills with the use of primary and secondary sources. This course satisfies the A section of the A-G graduation requirements.

The units of study are taught thematically and will progress as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Unit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Nation's Beginnings</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>World War II</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Growing Pains</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>The Cold War</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>The Progressive Era</td>
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<td>Civil Rights Movement</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>The Jazz Age</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Postwar American Society</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>The Great Depression</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Modern America</td>
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Note: Spring Semester will begin with Unit 6.

TEXTBOOKS AND/OR RECOMMENDED OR REQUIRED READINGS


Course Objectives

In addition to the skills and concepts described in the above course description, students in U.S. History will learn the following communication, language, and research skills throughout the year that coincide with the Common Core Standards. I realize not everyone is dreaming of becoming an historian of American history. As far as practical skills go, the following are probably the most useful things this course has to offer you.

- Writing in defense of an argument using the Jane Schaffer Chunk Paragraph Model
• Thesis statement development
• Supporting a thesis with evidence
• Evaluating information and making judgments between conflicting interpretations
• Utilizing the library and internet for research
• Recognizing appropriate sources
• Citing Sources using MLA Format
• Public Speaking

These skills will be built upon each year in subsequent social sciences courses. Our goal is to have each student capable of writing a college level research paper by the time they graduate.

**Academic Requirements**

- **Class Participation** -- is important! Each of you will be expected to take part in discussions on your own and/or when called upon.
- **Homework** – expect it! Both short-term assignments and long-term projects and research will require your attention at home most afternoons or evenings. Work should be completed prior to the start of class on its given due date. *Late work is unacceptable.*
- **Group Work** -- earns both a group and individual grades. Groups will be assigned by the teacher (this is *not negotiable*, please stop whining now) and will change frequently. Your cooperative skills and contributions to group work will also impact your participation grade.
- **Attendance** is vital. Should you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you’ve missed. You have the same number of days to turn in work as the number of days for which you had excused absences. *Many activities and experiences cannot be recreated for an individual who misses class. Poor attendance will affect your grade.*
- **Lying, cheating, plagiarism or any form of dishonesty will not be tolerated.**

**Supplies:**

- 8.5x11 in. lined paper
- Pencils
- Black or blue ink pens
- Colored Pencils
- I strongly recommend a binder to organize your class notes.
- Email Account
Behavior Expectations

❖ Be on time, prepared to learn and work. This includes being in compliance with our school’s dress code. You may not enter my classroom wearing a non-JFK ball cap, headphones, talking on a phone, texting on a phone, or listening to music without headphones.
❖ Bring required materials to class.
❖ Everyone will be treated with respect.
❖ No one will be allowed to disrupt the learning process of anyone else.
❖ No food, beverages, or gum are allowed at anytime.
❖ Attendance is critical. Any student with an unexcused absence won’t be allowed to make up missed assignments. Any student with 3 unexcused absences in a semester will be required to attend a parent/teacher conference.
❖ You may not make up assignments if you have been suspended from school.
❖ Students are allowed to have cell phones in their possession but they are not allowed out in class. If I don’t see it or hear it, there will be no issues. If I see it or hear it, it will be confiscated and a parent/guardian will have to pick it up in the office. Refusal to hand over a cell phone when asked will result in a referral to the discipline office.
❖ Bathroom passes will be given if Mr. Messineo feels it is an appropriate time unless policy is being abused.
❖ Let the positive vibes flow. Negativity will not be allowed.

Keep this syllabus in your binder.

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