

American History B
Course Description
2011-2012

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American History is a study of the history of America from the stages of early exploration to present day. The backbone of the curriculum is the book series, “Essentials”, which is really not much more than an outline of key events and movements throughout American History. The “Essentials” series is the grammar portion of the class, bringing students quickly up to speed on facts from which learning begins. The students, with the help of the tutor, will be expected to piece together this information in a logical manner. As the year progresses students should be willing and increasingly able to thoughtfully support and share their own opinions and ideas. We will begin the year with the discovery, exploration, settling and founding of America and work our way up to contemporary events and current movements.

Primary Objective

The goal of the course is to produce informed thinkers who will influence the culture around them in a positive way. To do this, students are encouraged toward self-discovery through outside readings, special projects and in-class discussions.

Junior Class American History Trip

The class should be a lead-up to the Junior American History Trip that takes place for 10 days immediately after school in May. This trip is a continuation of learning and is designed to enhance the framework of knowledge which the students have gained through the American History course. Trip details, eligibility, costs and itinerary are introduced in a special meeting with parents and students scheduled the night of orientation.

Reading

Students will read at least two books of their own choosing regarding American History during the year. Two book reports will be assigned, one due immediately after Thanksgiving and one due after Spring Break. Students may read these books at any time and are encouraged to read them when they have time in the summer or over school breaks. All titles should be approved by your tutor.

All classes will read the book, “Killer Angels,” a historical novel about the battle of Gettysburg. Students may pick this book up from the library and read it at any time. Any student who reads this book and takes its quiz by the first week of school will receive a 10 point bonus and not have to do this work during the school year.

Assignment for the First Day of Class

An introduction to early American History is the book, “**The Light and the Glory.**” The assignment for the first day of class is to read **Chapters 5-6 and be ready for a reading quiz** at the beginning of the first day of class. This book is easy to read and would not be a bad book to read in its entirety. It could be used as one of the two books required for outside reading.

Supplies- Paper and Writing Utensils