



**SAINT GEORGE  
SCHOOL**  
FOUNDED 1965



Porfirio Herrera No. 6, Ensanche Piantini.  
Santo Domingo, D. N. Rep. Dominicana



T. 809 562 5262 F. 809 562 5015  
[www.stgeorge.edu.do](http://www.stgeorge.edu.do)

## **US HISTORY 4<sup>th</sup> Form (10<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Teacher: Donald Gotz

Email: [dgotz@saintgeorge.do](mailto:dgotz@saintgeorge.do)

Blog: [gotzhistory.blogspot.com](http://gotzhistory.blogspot.com)

Academic year: 2011-2012

### **1. INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION OF COURSE**

History students will study individuals and societies, and learn how questions are posed without providing definitive answers. The course covers US history from Colonial times until 1980. The focus will be on the US Constitution through slavery and racism, pre-WWI, the Great Depression and New Deal, causes of totalitarian regimes and American isolation, post-WWII America, the Cold War and how it relates to the rest of the world, the Civil Rights Movement and the return of Conservatism. We also cover economic themes, vocabulary and connect them to recent events.

### **2. SKILLS**

Students will focus on reading, developing evaluation and analysis skills, and master persuasive and analytical writing. They will practice research which will enable them to write a Historical Investigation rough draft which will prepare them for the IB program. The student will develop the ability to voice an independent opinion verbally through class discussion, debate, and the written word. Students should read newspapers online written in English and Spanish daily to keep current on events and how they relate to the history we study. The most important skill students will develop is Critical Thinking; the ability to think for themselves without mirroring other's ideas.

### **3. CONTENT**

We cover the Declaration of Independence and Constitution, western movement and expansion, slavery and its purposes and results, industrialization, migration and American Imperialism. We then move to pre-war segregation, economics, European issues that affect the US, Roaring 20's expansion, the Great Depression and how it led to totalitarian states abroad. The economic changes that begin to dominate the world leads to war, Cold War and military actions, Civil Rights and conservative change. We will relate this history to its connection with other countries around the globe in its time period, as well as connect early events with what is happening in today's world.

### **4. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES**

Core texts: The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, plus the accompanying Workbook and Reading Guide.

*\* These core texts do not make up the entirety of the printed resources to be used in the course. Other resources will include: internet research, library research and selected essays from other printed sources.*

\*Students are expected to have the following material for class: Workbook, Reading Guide, 3 Ring Binder, 100 sheets of College Rule lined paper, notebook (laptop or tablet when requested if the student has one). The text can remain at home as we have a class set available to all students so there is no need to bring their own text every day to class. All reading will be done at home

## **5. TEACHING STRATEGIES**

Students will practice individual, pair and group work; a variety of written, oral activities; question and answer; group discussion, research and debate. The students must speak English in class, must read the text at home, and be prepared for reading quizzes at the beginning of class to insure students are following through on their daily responsibilities. There will be several writing assignments that will push students to excel in voicing analysis and opinion.

## **6. EVALUATIONS**

The students will receive a rubric (grid that lists criteria) explaining precisely how they will be evaluated for ALL assignments.

- Participation /Current Events (10%)
- Homework (10%)
- Quizzes (10%)
- Class Work (10%)
- Projects /Research (20%)
- In-class writing (20%)
- Tests (20%)

*\*Participation requires students to have studied the material, used proper class etiquette, developed clear ideas and know how to present them, understand the issues of the day and be prepared to discuss them.*

*\* Projects, Research and Writing will have rubrics that guide the students, allowing them utilize their time efficiently and maximize their learning.*

## **7. OTHER REMARKS REGARDING OUR CLASS**

US History students should understand that their learning depends solely on their own efforts. The skills we will be focusing on require effort and concentration. The mastery of these skills will enable students to successfully enter not only the IB program, but lead them on the path to Critical Thinking and independent thought. US History is a free-thought space where English is required, thinking independently a must, and participation a key. Note taking, analysis and evaluation, debate, respect for others opinions, and finding the “Big Picture” are the activities we will be doing. Developing skills that will enable students to read material from other courses and grasp meaning will allow a sense of accomplishment, a feeling of achievement and self-confidence that they can participate in any discussion and have something to add.