

Syllabus for Contemporary History Mr. McDonald

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The study of primarily U.S. History post WWII to present day. Some world events will also be studied with relation to how it effected America. Each decade will be researched and discussed using videos, pictures, written accounts, lectures and stories from the past. We will spend approximately 2 to 3 weeks for each decade. Important events will be reviewed and discussed as well as the cultural times, including music, dress, social and political issues. We will look at governmental policies and laws and relate them to modern times.

PREREQUISITES

At least one year high school history completed, this is an elective class during second period that the student must sign up for with our academic dean. This can be done before or during the first few days of school.

MAJOR TOPICS

A brief history of the World Wars I and II for perspective in the first week to three days, then we study post war history and attitudes. In week two we start on our first full decade the 50's which I am proud and reluctant to admit being born during. Major events will be a focus, such as wars, including the Cold War and its ripple effects, as well as catastrophies as in natural disasters and other human events, such as assassinations. Positive events such as the Olympics, the Civil Rights Acts, and the fall of the Berlin Wall will be studied.

MAJOR PROJECTS

Students will be required to hand in one paper on a famous figure in history from 1950 to 2014 due the second week in quarter two October 31st.

Students throughout the course will be asked to research events in history and make a short 3-5 minute presentation in class. Due dates given individually during 2nd quarter.

Students will be asked to take notes roughly 50% of the time that can be used on tests and quizzes. This is a participation class students will asked questions and expected to respond, especially their opinion on events and issues.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A dedicated notebook or section in a notebook for this class, no other book required.

RULES/POLICIES

CONTEMPORARY HISTORY #2

All students will be respectful of other students and the teacher at all times, especially when other students are speaking. All other school rules apply according to the school manual.

GRADING

A minimum of three quizzes per quarter will be required as well as nine daily or homework assignments.