

Modern History

One Semester

Me: Brian F. Busker (Mr. Busker to you)
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Philosophy of Education:

I believe we are all made in the image of God, and as such, should treat each other with dignity and respect. Failure to do so will bring with it consequences. All of history is God's history and fits into His (our) story of redemption. It is from this perspective and framework that I teach.

Subject:

Modern History is a semester long course for 12th grade students. This is an elective to be taken in your senior year. Modern History is a course that is in full alignment with the Social Studies Program Goals, and in particular, with #5-6, 9-12 which deal with worldview, historical perspective, human nature, current issues and corporate memory

Modern History covers a variety of topics from roughly 1960 to the present. We will take somewhat of a decade approach to history in this class that will talk about world history but will focus mainly in on the events surrounding the United States. We will start with the Kennedy administration and follow it through the turbulent 60s and then switch to the Vietnam war, Watergate, and energy crisis of the 70s. After that we will discuss the Reagan administration and the 80s and then obviously follow that up with the 90s as we get to 9/11/01 and discuss its implications even still to this day

Major Assignments:

This semester's major assessments and assignments include, but are not exclusive to, the following:

- About 4 Tests (1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s)
- Numerous Quizzes (JFK Quiz, Civil Rights Quiz, Reagan Quiz, etc.)
- Decades Project (powerpoint/prezi presentation on decade (70s, 80s, 90s. or 2000s)
- Oral History Report (local history report based on interview of an individual)
- Movie Assignment (watch a Vietnam or more current conflict movie and report on it)
- International Figure Report
- National Figure Report

Class Schedule: (subject to change)

The 1960s

Topics: Election of 1960, JFK, Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis, JFK Assassination, Civil Rights (Rosa Parks), MLK vs. Malcolm X, Civil Rights Protests, KKK, Counter-culture, Anti-war movement, Student movement, 1968

Activities: JFK Notes, Election of 1960 handout coupled with watching first debate between JFK and Nixon on youtube, watch inauguration speech of JFK, Bay of Pigs web assignment, watch movie "Thirteen Days", JFK assassination notes, consider conspiracies, watch youtube footage of "Zapruder film" and related images of assassination and conspiracy theory, take Kennedy Era Quiz, PBS Web Assignment, Civil Rights "Eyes on the Prize" Video, Comparison of Malcolm and Martin (Mr. Bootsma?), use youtube videos of MLK and Malcolm X, and civil rights movement in general, Watch movie "Mississippi Burning",

Take Civil Rights Quiz, video history of the KKK, Watch DVD entitled “The Sixties”, Go over Sixties notes handout, take 1960s Test

The 1970s

Topics: Vietnam, Watergate, Nixon, Jim Jones, President Ford, Energy crisis, President Carter

Activities: Vietnam notes, video on Tet Offensive, watch “Vietnam: A soldier’s diary”, watch “Tunnel Rats”, Vietnam Vet, Watergate notes, watch Watergate Video, watch “70s Rocks”, 1970s worksheet, watch video on Jim Jones, take 1970s Test

The 1980-1988

Topics: Ronald Reagan, Iran-Contra, Cold War and U.S.S.R., President Bush,

Activities: Reagan notes, watch Ronald Reagan video, investigate attempted assassination, watch Iran-Contra video, watch “80s Rocks” , take Reagan Quiz

1988-1999

Topics: President Bush, Persian Gulf War, Fall of Communism, President Clinton, Impeachment, O.J. Trial , Columbine, Oklahoma City, Waco

Activities: Persian Gulf notes, Election of 1992 and Clinton notes, watch videos on O.J. trial, Columbine, Oklahoma City bombing, Waco, Clinton Impeachment, take unit quiz

2000-present

Topics: Election of 2000, President George W. Bush, September 11, War on Terror, Invasion of Iraq, Election of 2004, War in Afghanistan, Election of 2008, President Obama, Death of Osama BinLaden, Economic Recession, Presidential policies

Activities: 2000 Election and Bush notes, watch 9/11 video, 2008 Election and Obama notes

Grading:

I grade by a point system taking the total possible and dividing it by the total amount received by you the student. The points will be added from daily assignments, projects, quizzes, papers, and tests. Class participation and attitude are the wild cards in this scheme and can either raise or lower your final grade. The final grade is weighted with each quarter being 40% and the exam being 20%

Grading Scale: 100-97 = A
96-94 = A-
93-90 = B+
89-86 = B
85-83 = B-
82-79 = C+
78-75 = C
74-72 = C-
71-68 = D+
67-64 = D
63-60 = D-

I hope and pray this will be a good semester and if the above is followed by you as well as me then we should have no problem accomplishing this goal.

D.V.