United States History: The Story of Us

Course Length: Full Year
Course Credit: 1
Course Weight: .25 (Honors)

Driving Questions:
• To what extent and in what ways has the American experience mirrored the ideals enshrined in our founding documents?
• How have marginalized groups (e.g. African Americans, Native Americans, women, and immigrants) struggled to more fully realize the ideals enshrined in our founding documents?
• How has conflict shaped the story of US?

Big Ideas:
Students will know...
• that American history is a complex narrative of progress, contradictions, and paradoxes.
• that economic, political, social, and cultural factors have played an important role in shaping the American experience.
• how and why American political institutions have developed.
• how and why America’s role in the world has changed.

Key Skills:
Students will be able to...
• further hone those skills developed during 9th grade history.
• further develop scholarly habits.
  • reading for arguments and evidence - main ideas, key vocabulary, and patterns.
  • note taking - balancing listening, processing, and writing skills to create a study ready document.
  • creating a productive work routine to balance demands on one’s time.
• students will continue to improve their historical writing skills.
  • effectively incorporate and analyze historical facts to support an argument.
  • individually and collectively improve writing skills across a variety of learning modalities.
  • learn to become an effective peer editor.
• students will deepen their understanding of the research process.
  • understand the difference between reporting historical facts and making an historical argument.
• understand that historians interpret facts and that interpretations may change over time.
• internalize the importance/critical nature of consulting multiple sources as part of the research process.
• practice developing/asking questions of appropriate size or scope.
• students will practice effectively communicating information to a group.
  • these skills and habits include -- preparation, practice, pacing, eye contact, voice quality, and discipline.
  • using technology to create visually appealing and informative products that enhance the effectiveness of the shared content.
• work collaboratively as a partner, as an active member of a small or large group, and as a respectful citizen within the class.
• both recognize patterns and assess similarities and differences across historical periods and events.
• become engaged participants in the democratic process, aware of the rights and responsibilities as American citizens, practiced in civil discourse, who are capable of advancing the dialog around core principles, engaging with the broader community, and promoting a kinder world.