

# U.S. History II

Mr. Ljungberg

## Course Description

While some of you may enjoy learning about history, I realize that many of you find it boring and irrelevant to your life. Learning a bunch of random names and dates probably isn't very meaningful to you. My goal this year is to convince you that "history" is not just about stuff that happened in the past. I want you to come away at the end of the year with the realization that history is as much about *today* as it is about yesterday. Who we are as a country today is because of the choices that our ancestors made decades ago. History often repeats itself – particularly when we don't learn from our mistakes! If you turn on the evening news tonight you will see many of the same themes and problems that existed a hundred years ago. They may have taken a different form, but the issues surrounding government, business, and everyday people all still remain. Who holds the power in society? Why do we go to war? Why are some people treated differently than others in this country? These are all issues that have been around for a long time and will be around long after we are gone. Hopefully, at the end of this year you won't just see history as a bunch of boring events from the past. And more importantly, you will learn to see that what your generation does today will be the history that your grandchildren read about some day. What will you want said about your brief time on this planet?

## Expectations

You will be expected to take *daily classroom notes* and/or complete a *daily assignment* in class. Most nights you will be expected to read a section from your textbook and/or complete a writing assignment that accompanies it. You will be expected to answer questions from the daily classroom presentations and you will need to keep them organized in a notebook or 3-ring binder. Notebook checks will be done at the end of each chapter. *Your classroom notes/ assignments and homework will make up a substantial amount of your grade (50%).* If you frequently blow off your classwork and homework assignments you will find it difficult to pass this course. On the other hand, if you put a solid effort into these two things then you should do well in this class. Lastly, you will usually have *at least 1 quiz, and a test on each chapter that we cover.*

## Grading Policy & Extra Help

I want every student to have the opportunity to do well in this class. I value hard work and persistent efforts. If you do poorly on a test or don't understand what we are talking about in class you should meet with me so we can try to work on the problem. Extra credit is only given if all of your assignments have been completed and you have made up any poor test grades. *I encourage you to retake any tests that you do poorly on. I will average the two test grades together and allow you to score up to a maximum of a 70.* Seek out extra help as soon as you feel you are starting to fall behind. Don't wait until you are completely stressed out or confused by the work! I am usually available during my prep and duty periods and am after school at least twice a week.

Your grade will consist of the following:

Tests/Quizzes/Projects = 50%

Classwork & Homework = 50%

Homework is graded on the following scale:

√ + = 100 ~ goes above and beyond

√ = 85 ~ completed everything

√ - = 75 ~ missing 1 or 2 questions or essay is a little short

√ - - = 65 ~ missing a substantial amount of work or work is late

0 = 0 ~ did not complete assignment

## Resources Needed

- ~ Your textbook
- ~ notebook for notes/homework questions and/or essays
- ~ 3-ring binder (not required, but strongly recommended)
- ~ pen or pencil
- ~ possible additional supplies as needed for projects

## Course Requirements

- ~ Be in class on a regular basis
- ~ Demonstrate mature and responsible behavior
- ~ Complete nightly assignments on time
- ~ Come to class prepared, both with required materials and with an enthusiastic, curious, and focused mindset
- ~ Make up missed assignments and tests
- ~ Do the reading and study your notes
- ~ Utilize the class website (especially if absent)
- ~ *Check your phone at the door* (more details below)

## Attendance

It is essential that you attend class regularly. Those who miss class frequently will find that they will quickly fall behind and will struggle to catch back up. If you miss a class you are expected to take the initiative to get any missed notes and to find out what the homework assignment was either by checking with me, a classmate, or my class website. Homework assignments (as well as classroom powerpoints) are listed on my website [www.mrlj.weebly.com](http://www.mrlj.weebly.com). It is a good idea to find a “homework buddy” in class that you can rely on to pick you up any handouts in the event that you are out. If you miss a quiz or test you are expected to make it up as soon as possible upon returning to school.

## Classroom Procedures

Unless we are doing an activity that requires you to get up and move around, you are expected to be in your seat when the bell rings and to remain there until it rings for the next class. You are expected to remain in the seat that you have been assigned to. If you do not have a medical condition and you are regularly using passes to go to the nurse or bathroom more than twice a week then a call will be placed home to find out if this is necessary. Leaving class because you are bored is not an option!

## Cell Phone Policy

I don't want to see any phones at any time...Period. Your device should be put away on silent. Devices are distracting to me when I teach, to your classmates, and obviously to the person who is using it instead of paying attention. If you keep your device away and on silent, I will usually let you use it for the last 2-3 minutes of class as a reward. If I see you trying to hide and/or use your device, you will have the option to quietly choose to give me your phone for the rest of the period and get it back before you leave. If you don't want to hand your phone over quietly, you can choose to go to the office and receive consequences from the assistant principal instead. If this becomes a regular problem, a phone call will be placed home. I will authorize students to use devices as needed (emergency situations, etc.).

## Classroom Behaviors

As mentioned in the course requirements, you are expected to demonstrate mature and responsible behavior. This means treating the classroom and everyone in it with respect. I will always treat you with respect. You may not always agree with my policies, however, you must respect them. If you have a problem with something I will be more than happy to discuss it with you after class or after school.

I encourage you to ask questions and contribute to class discussions. However, *talking while the teacher (or one of your classmates) is talking will not be tolerated.* Students who are continually inattentive or talking when they shouldn't be will have their seats moved. If the problem persists then a parent/guardian will be notified.

Everyone has a bad day from time to time. If you are having a rough time or a problem with one of your classmates let me know and if necessary, I will allow you a few minutes in the hallway outside my room to gather yourself (as long as this does not become a regular habit).

## Academic Responsibility

There will be times when you will be asked to work on assignments with your classmates. However, misrepresenting others' work as your own is intellectual dishonesty. All projects and homework assignments must be individually written in your own words. If it is discovered that you have copied someone else's homework then both you and the person who allowed you to copy will receive a zero. Additionally, you must properly cite resources and people used in your research. Failure to do so is plagiarism. You will receive a zero on any work that is plagiarized. See me if you are uncertain about how to properly cite your sources.

## Important Information

Mr. Ljungberg's school email: [eljungberg@quaboagrdsd.org](mailto:eljungberg@quaboagrdsd.org)

Mr. Ljungberg's school phone/voicemail: 436-5991 X2043

Class Website: [www.mrlj.weebly.com](http://www.mrlj.weebly.com)

**\*The classroom website is an important tool for this class. Please use it if you miss class so that you can access the homework assignments, powerpoints and questions from that day's lesson. Even if you do not need the website for missed work you should utilize it to help review and/or answer the nightly homework questions.**

Please sign below indicating that you have read, understand, and agree to the course policies and expectations for Mr. Ljungberg's *U.S. History II* class. Please call or email me with any questions or concerns that you might have.

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Student signature

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Parent signature

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