U.S. History: Reconstruction to Present

U.S. History: Reconstruction to Present is the continuation of 8th Grade U.S. History, which deals with the settlement of North America by Europeans to the Civil War.

Course Objective:

Students will:

- understand the history of the United States from the Reconstruction era to the election of Barack Obama
- improve at reading informational texts
- demonstrate an understanding of historical chronology
- interpret and apply data from original documents
- use historical data to support an argument or position

Required Materials

- Please bring a writing utensil and a notebook to class every day.
- Your textbook will often be required, as indicated on the whiteboard outside my classroom.
- Additional materials as needed

Resources

- Other materials provided by instructor.

Content

- Early National Development: 1775 to 1877
- Development of the Industrial United States: 1870 to 1900
- Emergence of the Modern United States: 1897 to 1920
- The United States in Prosperity and Depression: 1920s and 1930s
- The United States and WWII: 1939 to 1945
- Postwar United States: 1945 to 1960
- The United States in Troubled Times: 1960 to 1980
- The Contemporary United States: 1980 to Present
Grading

- **Homework (15%)** – “Homework” refers primarily to the “Note Taking Study Guides” that students will complete as they read each section. Homework is completion-based.

- **Activities/Projects/Participation or “APP” (20%)** – Students will participate in various in-class activities, projects, and discussions. Grading procedures for this category will be at the instructor’s discretion.

- **Quizzes (30%)** – Every section of assigned reading from the textbook will have an accompanying quiz. Generally these are ten questions per section, but the number of questions may fluctuate.

- **Document-Based Questions or “DBQs” (15%)** – Near the midterm of each quarter, students will compose a timed essay based on a prompt, instructor-provided primary sources, and the student’s own knowledge.

- **Thematic Research Papers (20%)** – At the end of each quarter, students will compose a research paper that utilizes primary sources to explore themes in U.S. history.