Course Description

US History I focuses on the dynamic narrative of American society in the 1800s through a study of eras, turning points, societal institutions, people, places, and ideas that have shaped that narrative.

Major Topics

The major chronological eras studied in this course include the following five:

- Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)
- Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877)
- The West (1801-1890)
Standards To Be Met

Content Standards – 85% of Final Grade

Content standards for this course are portions of the Alaska Content Standards in history, geography, and culture and performance standards for reading and writing.

History

- Record of human experience
  - Create and use timelines to organized historical events
  - Understand that history is a narrative told in many voices
  - Know that culture reflects time & human interactions
  - Understand that history is dynamic with key turning points
  - Understand history as a bridge to understanding groups & individuals

- Historical inquiry
  - Use a variety of primary & secondary historical data (documents)
  - Apply thinking skills to understand the historical record

- Historical themes
  - Understand that change & continuity shape human history
  - Explore the people & events that have shaped history
  - Recognize large historical patterns
  - Evaluate the influence of context on historical understanding

- Application of history
  - Define personal positions on historical issues
  - Use empathy to understand the historical context

Geography

- Spatial perspective: make & use maps, globes, & graphs
- Uses of geography: understand the impact of geography on historical events

Culture

- Cultural heritage and traditions
- Knowledge and skills
- Appreciation of the relationships of all worldly elements

We will also be aligning assignments to the Common Core Literacy Standards.

Life Skills Standards – 15% of Final Grade

- Work Ethic
- Participation
- Courtesy/Respect

Access your grades and information on assignments in the online gradebook.

See:
http://sitkaschools.org
Major Projects and Assessments
Assessments take a variety of forms throughout the semester combining both short- and long-term, informal and formal, and self and peer assessments.

Technology Skills
Students will use technology-based tools to read, write, present, and research in order to explore and analyze the ideas presented by the questions of history and to derive meaning. Students will have regular opportunities to use technology in class. They are also highly encouraged to utilize lab time on Wednesdays for access to technology, especially those traveling on school activities.

Feedback/Grading/Earning Credit
_The most important feedback students will receive on work for this course will be from the scoring guides and teacher comments. This is the feedback that will offer students the opportunity to improve._

Additionally, students at Sitka High School receive both feedback on the course standards (see the previous page of this course outline) and a final grade. Feedback on the course standards is based on the individual student’s performance on standards-based assessments. Over the course of the semester, the student’s performance on standards-based assessments will be averaged to create a performance score at the end of the semester. This is true for both content and life skills standards. The scores on the course standards allow the student, teacher, and parents to evaluate strengths and weaknesses in the student’s learning. The course grade, however, is calculated based on totaling the points a student has accumulated by completing assignments over the course of the semester. Total points are calculated by attributing 85% of the grade to content scores and 15% to life skills scores. Thus, it is important for students to both concentrate on the quality of their work, which reveals strengths and weaknesses in the ability to meet the standards, and to complete all assignments, as the course grade determines whether or not the student receives credit for the course. American History is a required course and must be repeated if students do not attain a passing grade each semester. Students and parents may track standards-based scores and current course grade calculations via the web. The report card at the end of the semester will reflect both standard scores and the final grade.
Notes:
  o When students travel for pre-arranged or extracurricular activities, students need to sign out before travel and should also check in after travel.
  o If there is a hard copy assignment, work missed is placed in the appropriate box. Students are responsible for checking the box for missed work. Students are also responsible for following the class blog and the assignments as posted in the class gradebook online.
  o At times, students are required to work in groups. When this happens, students are responsible for using lab and office hours to work with their group if class time is not sufficient.
  o Students must have a three-ring binder in which to keep their U.S. History work, and the binder will be graded for organization and completeness at the end of the semester.
  o Students are expected to record all assignments in the SHS Student Planner.
  o Successful SHS students make regular use of office hours and labs.

Student signature:

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Signature

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Date

Student E-Mail(s)

Please send an e-mail to smothers-marcelloj@sitkaschools.org.

Parental signature:

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Signature

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Date

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