

axis STEM Academy Syllabus—US History—2017-18

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A thoughtful, passionate, and engaged citizenry is essential to a functioning democracy. Currently, we are witnessing the latest of several breakdowns in both civil discourse and responsive government. Understanding how these breakdowns have occurred historically – and how they have been resolved – will make us more capable to create the nation which we need in order to generate lasting opportunity and further our progress.

In U.S. History, specific topics of study include the Revolutionary Era, Westward Expansion & Native American issues, industrialization & urbanization of American society, the Jazz Age of the 1920's, the Great Depression, issues of conformity and social unrest in the 1950's and 1960's, and efforts to exert American influence on the world stage. We will also have mini-units examining moments of profound technical progress in American engineering history. The skills-base for the core involves extensive reading and writing, research, public speaking & critical inquiry, creative expression and hands-on demonstration projects.

Materials Needed

- ◆ a section in your core binder sufficient for extensive notes and work
- ◆ 3 tabs with labels (Notes, Handouts, Returned Work)
- ◆ college-ruled lined paper
- ◆ black or blue pens
- ◆ pencils & erasers
- ◆ highlighters
- ◆ internet access (either in school or outside)

Policies

I expect all members of the Axis STEM Academy to adhere to accepted standards of academic and personal integrity. Show the respect that you and we as a community of learners deserve. US History assignments missed due to an *excused* absence are expected to be turned in upon your return with a note from a parent/guardian.

A final note.....

I am here to help you succeed – and I am human too. Stop by to say hello. Tell me how it's going. Play the guitar. Ask about things you don't understand or want to know more about. I'm available at lunch and after 3rd block each A-day. You can also reach me by phone or email. Please, please, please – check in, even if for no reason other than to tell me how your day is going.

The genius of the United States is not best or most in its executives or legislatures, nor in its ambassadors or authors or colleges, or churches, or parlors, nor even in its newspapers or inventors, but always most in the common people.

--Walt Whitman