**Curriculum**

**US History International**

**Course Overview**

This year-long course is designed to give international students a comprehensive introduction to the major political, social, and economic themes of US history. The course begins with early colonization in the Seventeenth Century and ends with the Iraq War. Drawing on primary sources, students develop both content knowledge and critical interpretation skills. They explore important tensions that have arisen at various times--between freedom and government, development and exploitation, and diversity and tolerance, to name a few. In addition to regular coursework, students will write a research paper in the second semester.

**Department Standards**

Expected Outcomes:

1. Knowledge of and interest in history, the social and behavioral sciences and related subjects.
2. Constructive participation in a democratic society.
3. Understanding of various societies throughout history.
4. Development of critical analysis skills.
5. Development of research skills.
6. Development of communication and presentation skills.

**Benchmarks**:

Students will...

\* understand the significant events and movements of American history, the contexts in which they took place, and their effects;

\* develop an informed appreciation of American history in its many facets: political, social, economic, intellectual and cultural.

\* apply their learning thoughtfully in class discussions and activities;

\* select, use, and evaluate primary and secondary sources, effectively and appropriately; and

\* write coherent and effective historical essays; make effective oral presentations.

**Performance Indicators**

**First Quarter:**

Students will be able to:

read for meaning and develop their own, effective style of note-taking

approach primary documents in a holistic manner

apply evidence effectively in an essay

create open-ended questions that enrich class discussions

demonstrate--through discussion, writing, and tests--a strong grasp of the major

historical phenomena of the time period studied, including:

- colonial settlement in the New World, and conflicts with native peoples

- regional variations in the Thirteen Colonies, particularly economic and

political

* the impact of wars and colonial administration on politics, concluding with the War for Independence

**Second Quarter:**

Students will be able to:

engage in discussions constructively, with shared leadership

design topic sentences and create coherent paragraphs

use secondary sources responsibly

demonstrate--through discussion, writing, and tests--a good grasp of the major

historical phenomena of the time period studied, including:

- the flaws of the Confederation, and the development of the Constitution

- the development of political parties and foreign policy

- the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution

- Jacksonian democracy and Indian policy

**Third Quarter:**

Students will be able to:

ò conduct background and targeted research for a self-designed thesis

ò develop arguments to support a research thesis, using collected evidence

ò write a competent research essay draft, using formal style and citation ò demonstrate--through discussion, writing, and tests--a good grasp of the major historical phenomena of the time period studied, including:

- Manifest Destiny, slavery, and sectionalism

- theWar between the States and its aftermath

- Reconstruction politics and corruption - big business and organized labor in the Second Industrial Revolution

- immigration, urbanization

- agrarian politics; Progressivism

- the dynamics of imperialism

**Fourth Quarter:**

Students will be able to:

revise a research essay thoroughly, using rubric-based teacher feedback,

particularly for coherence and argument development ò debate perspectives

in history, and rebut an opponent’s case

demonstrate--through discussion, writing, and tests--a good grasp of the major

historical phenomena of the time period studied, including:

- American imperialism and Progressivism

- isolationism, war, and peace under Wilson

- modernism, cultural conflict, and consumerism in the 1920s

- the Great Depression and the New Deal

- the Second World War and its impact on the world

- the onset of the Cold War, and the policy of containment

- postwar cultural conservatism and dissent - interventionism in Korea and

Vietnam

- the Civil Rights Movement

**Assessments**

**1st Quarter**

Two unit tests

Essay on Britain's imperial policies

**2nd Quarter**

Two unit tests

Essay on Jackson

Semester exam

**3rd Quarter**

Draft of research essay

(thesis-driven, 5 pages, with citations)

Oral presentation of research

Reflection on urban poverty

One unit test

**4th Quarter**

Staged revision of research essay

(with comprehensive feedback)

Debate

Two unit tests

Semester exam

**Core Topics**

**1st Quarter**

New World exploration

Early colonial life

Colonial economy, religion and government

Struggle for self-government; War for Independence

**2nd Quarter**

Inventing a new democracyNational period

The frontier and Jacksonian Democracy

Slavery and sectionalist politics

**3rd Quarter**

Civil WarReconstruction to segregation

Industry and the rise of labor

Immigration and the urban experience

Unions, farmers, and Populism

\* Researching and using sources

**4th Quarter**

Progressivism and Imperialism

World War I

The Depression

World War II

The Cold War until 1975

Civil Rights Movement

\* Feedback and revising

**Specific Content**

**1st Quarter**

I. Early Peoples: Native Tribes and Migrations

II. Discovery and exploration

A. Columbus

B. Spanish explorers and settlers

C. French exploration in Canada

D. Jamestown

III. Early Colonies

A. Puritans and New England

B. Quakers and Pannsylvania

C. Middle and Southern Colonies

IV. Colonial Life

A. Farming, Trade, and Shipping

B. Religion and Education

C. Experiences in New France and New Spain

V. Toward Independence

A. French and Indian War

B. Taxation and Resistance

C. Order v. Freedom in practice

D. Independence and War

**2nd Quarter**

I. A New Nation

A. Articles of Confederation

B. Constitution and Federalism

C. Settling West; Louisiana

D. War of 1812 and Nationalism

II. The New West

A. Mountain Men and Pioneers

B. Mormons

C. Mexican War

D. Indians and Settlers on the Great Plains

III. Sectionalism and Slavery

A. Colonial Slavery

B. Culture of the South

C. Slave Resistance

D. Industrialization in the North

E. Abolition Movement

F. Sectional battles in Congress

**3rd Quarter**

I. Civil War and Reconstruction

A. War Years

B. Reconstruction and its failuresII. Industrial Revolution

A. From roots in early 1800's through 1890's

B. Rise of big business

C. Urbanization

D. Immigration

III. Reform Movements

A. Rough beginnings for unions

B. Farmers and Populism

C. Women and Equal rights

D. Progressivism

IIII. Imperialism

A. The Spanish American War

B. The Pacific and Caribbean

**4th Quarter**

I. World War I and the Roaring Twenties

A. Entry of US; failure of Wilson's Points

B. Mass consumerism, the economy, and society

II. The Depression and World War II

A. Roots of economic collapse

B. New Deal

C. Entry of the US; conduct of War

D. Terms of peace; UN and Bretton Woods

III. Cold War

A. Postwar beginnings

B. Asian Conflicts (cf. Iraq/Afg. Wars)

C. Missile Crisis and Detente

D. 1980's

IV. Civil Rights Movement and Social Change

A. Brown v. Board and civil disobedience

B. Equal Opportunity for other minorities

C. The future of 'The American Experiment'

**Resources**

Main Text: O'Connor, J.R. Exploring American History. Pearson, 1994.

Supplementary Materials: Selected primary and secondary documents, based on student interest (2-4 per quarter)