

# U.S. History & Government 11

Course Syllabus for 2009 - 2010

Mr. Baldwin - Room 204

## Overview:

Greetings and welcome to **US H&G 11!** This course covers the history of the United States from colonial times to the present as well as the foundations of American Government. In this course we will do a lot of reading, writing, thinking, and discussing in an effort to gain an in-depth understanding of U.S. history and government in preparation for the New York State Regents Exam in June. We will cover many topics, including:

Settlement and Colonization of America  
The Revolutionary War  
The Formation of the U.S. Constitution  
Treatment of Native Americans  
Slavery  
The Civil War and Reconstruction

The Industrialization of America  
The Progressive Era  
WWI and WWII  
The Great Depression and The New Deal  
The Cold War and The Red Scare  
**And Much More....**

## Course Readings:

- *American History: The Modern Era Since 1865* by Davidson (Glencoe Publishing)
- **Additional supplemental readings will be provided throughout the year.**

**Note:** Not too long ago, I was a student. I know that some students decide not to do the readings for a course. Some of you may have made it to this point in your school career without completing the reading assignments in previous classes. We often think we can “get by” by listening and participating in class. **In this class, reading assignments are NOT optional.** Each assigned chapter from the textbook must be outlined following a model I provide. Additionally, there will be regular assessments/quizzes on the assigned readings. If you want to do well in this course, it is imperative that you complete the assigned readings.

## Course Policies and Procedures:

- Required Supplies:
  - **LARGE 3 Ring Binder** - 2” or bigger.
  - **Index Tabs For Your Binder** - You will need tabs for the following sections:
    - 1) Reading Notes
    - 2) Class Notes
    - 3) Handouts
    - 4) Skills Practice
    - 5) Tests/Quizzes/RQOTD
    - 6) Essays/Writing
    - 7) Glossary
  - **2 Packages of 3 x 5 Ruled Index Cards** - (Preferably MULTI-COLORED)
  - **Loose-Leaf Paper**
  - **Black or Blue Pens For Daily Use**
  - **Red Pens For Editing/Revising Written Work**
- Total Points Grading:
  - All assigned work will be assigned a point value. For example, a homework might be 10 points while a test might be 75 points.
  - You will receive a number of points out of the total for each assignment. For example, you might receive 8 out of 10 on a homework assignment or 70 out of 75 on a test.

- I will calculate your average by taking the **POINTS YOU RECEIVED** throughout the marking period and *dividing it by* the **TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE** for that marking period.
  - **For example:**
    - You Received 850 Points In Marking Period 1
    - There Were 1000 Total Points Possible In Marking Period 1  
 **$850 / 1000 = .85 = 85\%$**
    - In this example - on your report card you would get an 85%.
  
- Homework Policy:
  - Homework is assigned on a regular basis and is **NOT OPTIONAL**. I only give assignments that are designed to reinforce ideas taught in class and to prepare you for the regents exam in June. Thus, I expect all homework to be completed on time.
  - **LATE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR FULL CREDIT (Except in rare and extreme circumstances).**
  - **If You Regularly Come To Class Without Homework Completed, You Will Be Assigned After-School Detention and/or Mandatory Study Center. THIS IS NOT OPTIONAL. School work comes first.**
  
- Current Events Blog:
  - We will use a blog to discuss current events in American society. You will be asked to participate on a regular basis.
  - You will receive a grade each marking period for your contribution(s) to the current events blog.
  - More information on the current events blog will be provided in class.
  - To access the course blog, start at my homepage: **www.mr-baldwin.com**
  
- Decision-Making Seminars:
  - Throughout the year, we will hold seminars (similar to debates) on great issues in American History that required a decision to be made. For example: “Should The Constitution Be Ratified Or Not?” “Should The Cherokee Indians Be Moved West Or Not?” “Should Truman Drop The Bomb on Japan?”
  - YOUR Participation in these seminars is VITAL. You will receive a grade for seminar participation. More information will be provided in class.
  
- Behavior Expectations:
  - This is a high school course. So, let’s act like it. Instead of giving you a long list of rules and treating you like little kids, let me keep it relatively simple:
    - **Be On Time and Prepared Each Day.**
      - **If HW is NOT DONE...You Are NOT Prepared.**
    - **Be Respectful To All Members of the School Community.**
    - **Do Your Own Work.**
    - **Work Hard. Give Me Your Best and I Will Do The Same.**
    - **More Guidelines Will Be Provided As Needed.**
  - I do not anticipate any problems. However, any problems will be handled according to the BRCS code of conduct.

- Academic Dishonesty
  - **Any** form of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, is unacceptable in this course. I take cheating, plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty very seriously. Let's keep it simple: Do Not Cheat In Any Way. If you do, I **will** find out about it and enforce the code of conduct...no exceptions.
  - In college, academic dishonesty can get you expelled from the school. Let's establish good habits now. Do your own work.
  - If you have questions/concerns about academic dishonesty, please see me.
  
- Participation
  - I want each student to take an active role in his/her own education and learning. What does that mean? **Put simply: Don't come to class and sit there like a piece of drift wood. P-A-R-T-I-C-I-P-A-T-E.**
  - We will have many discussions, activities, debates, presentations, etc. that will require you to participate. Class will be more fun and more meaningful if you take an active role.
  - And of course, in order to participate, you need to actually be in class. Please maintain regular attendance and make sure if you do miss, you check the calendar and/or see me to make-up what you missed. This is your responsibility.

## Course Web Site:

I have created a web site for this course.

**You can access this website at [www.Mr-Baldwin.com](http://www.Mr-Baldwin.com) OR [www.MrBaldwin.net](http://www.MrBaldwin.net)**

This web site will be used to help me teach this course when we are not physically in our classroom. There are links for course materials and resources at this site. I will try to post copies of major assignments, projects, study guides, etc. in case you misplace the copy I provide. Check this site often as I will regularly add materials.

## Exam Information:

In addition to regular chapter/unit exams throughout the year, you will be required to take the **Regents Exam** in U.S. History and Government at the end of the year (in June). More information will be provided at a later date.