**US History & Government Course Syllabus**

Micah Rust

**Course Outline**:

1. Constitutional Period (5 – 7 weeks)
2. Nationalism & Sectionalism (3 – 5 weeks)
3. Industry & Reform (3 – 5 weeks)
4. The Rise of American Empire (3 weeks)
5. WW I & The 1920s (3 weeks)
6. The Great Depression & WW II (3 weeks
7. Cold War & Civil Rights (4 weeks)
8. The Vietnam War and After (3 weeks)
9. Regents Review

**Course Readings**:

*Voices of a People’s History of the United States*, Zinn & Arnove

*A People’s History of American Empire*, Zinn & Buhle

*Harlem Hellfighters*, Brooks & Cannon

*Wobblies!*, Buhle & Schulmann

**Grading Procedure:**

1/3 Attendance & Participation

1/3 Quizzes & Exams

1/3 Essays

Note: You may supplement your grade by taking notes and turning those in after each exam. You may earn up to 20 points on your exam grade or other assignments.

**Microsoft Teams:**

Throughout the year, all assignments and corresponding unit materials will be published on Microsoft Teams. Students will complete quizzes and exams online, using Microsoft Forms. Students will submit essays via Microsoft Teams or directly with me via my school email [mrust@fillmorecsd.org](mailto:mrust@fillmorecsd.org). These practices will enable us to move along with the curriculum seamlessly should traditional school be interrupted.

Dear FCS Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of my media selections for US History and Government. Throughout the course, I may be using the following productions. I invite you to watch these on your own if you appreciate history or a good drama. If you have any questions regarding any of the following, please feel free to give me a call or send me an email. In addition, I would like to encourage you to stop by for a face to face conversation at parent teacher conferences or earlier. These selections offer context and detail as students are encouraged to enhance their own Civic Literacy. A typical lesson plan, involving media, consists of 15 to 20 minutes of direct instruction, 15 to 20 minutes of media, and analysis of supportive texts. You can reach me via email [mrust@fillmorecsd.org](mailto:mrust@fillmorecsd.org) / phone 585-567-2251.

Sincerely,

Micah Rust Social Studies 11 & 12 Fillmore Central School

**Series/Miniseries**

**Turn (TV 14)**

1. A Long Island farmer bands together a group of childhood friends to form an unlikely group of spies who turn the tide in America's fight for independence
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Foreign Policy, Constitutional Principles, Economic Systems, Change, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. UNIT TWO: CONSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

**Hell on Wheels (TV 14)**

1. Hell on Wheels is an American period drama television series, that is set during the building of the Transcontinental Railroad
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Individuals, Organizations, Constitutional Principles, Presidential Actions, Diversity, Change, Reform, Social Movements, Culture and Intellectual Life, Economic Systems, Civil Liberties Restrictions
3. POST-CIVIL WAR ERA (1865 – 1900): Reconstruction resulted in political reunion and expanded constitutional rights. However, those rights were undermined, and issues of inequality continued for African Americans, women, Native Americans, Mexican Americans, and Chinese immigrants; Between 1865 and 1900, constitutional rights were extended to African Americans. However, their ability to exercise these rights was undermined by individuals, groups, and government institutions; Federal policies regarding westward expansion had positive effects on the national economy but negative consequences for Native Americans.

**Underground (TV MA)**

1. A historical-fictional account of the Underground Railroad. “Underground” follows a group of slaves who plan a daring escape from a Georgia plantation to cross 600 miles to freedom.

Because the series deals with slavery there are several scenes involving violence and/or tense situations. Students will be warned and given an opportunity to avert their eyes prior to such scenes. There are several scenes, of adult nature, that will be edited from classroom viewing.

1. Citizenship, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Constitutional Principles, Diversity, Reform Movements, Factors of Production, Migration, Places and Regions
2. The birth of the American reform tradition (religious and secular roots; public schools; care for the physically disabled and the mentally ill; the problems of poverty and crime; antislavery; women’s rights movement) 3. The great constitutional debates: states’ rights versus federal supremacy (nullification); efforts to address slavery issue (Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850, fugitive slave law, Dred Scott v. Sanford, 1857); preservation of the Union

**Manhattan (TV 14)**

1. In 1943, in Los Alamos, New Mexico, a team of government scientists is working on the top secret Manhattan Project in a race to produce an atomic bomb before the Nazis. Meanwhile, their families adjust to a life on the military base.
2. Culture and Intellectual Life, Science and Technology, Government, Individuals, Diversity, Factors of Production, Places and Regions, Environment, Foreign Policy, Constitutional Principles
3. The atomic bomb a. The Manhattan Project (role of refugees) b. Truman’s decision to use the atomic bomb of the war experience. D. The Cold War at home 1. Truman and government loyalty checks 2. Loyalty and dissent: the case of Robert Oppenheimer - 3. McCarthyism 4. Politics of the Cold War

**Mrs. America (TVMA)**

1. Conservative activist [Phyllis Schlafly](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0772067/) leads an unexpected fight against the Equal Rights Amendment movement during the 1970s.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Individuals, Organizations, Constitutional Principles, Diversity, Change, Reform, Social Movements, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. Individuals, diverse groups, and organizations have sought to bring about change in American society through a variety of methods.

Students will trace the following efforts in terms of issues/goals, key individuals and groups, and successes/limitations:  Modern women’s movement (e.g., *The Feminine Mystique* [1963], National Organization for Women *,* Equal Pay Act and Title IX, *Roe v. Wade*)

**Documentary**

**American Socialist: The Life and Times of Victor Eugene Debs**

**An Injury to One**

**Bisbee 17 (PG)**

**Black Power Mixtape 1967 – 1975**

**The Canary Effect (NR)**

**Gasland II (NR)**

**Knock Down The House (PG)**

**The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers (NR)**

**Pete Seeger: The Power of Song**

**Planet of the Humans**

**Requiem for the American Dream (NR)**

**Sir! No Sir!**

**13th**

**The Untold History of the United States (TV MA)**

**The Wobblies (NR)**

**Feature Film** (if shown, to be shown in entirety)

**Amigo (R)**

1. A fictional account of events during the Philippines War.
2. Diversity, Citizenship, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Constitutional Principles, Factors of Production, Environment, Human Systems, Economic Systems, Culture and Intellectual Life, Foreign Policy,
3. A. An emerging global involvement 1. From old diplomacy to new, 1865-1900 a. Role of increased American power Latin America (1) Communications technology phase of Manifest Destiny. (2) American attitudes toward international role (3) Growth of naval power b. Perry and the “opening” of Japan 2. Other Pacific overtures. United States and China; the Chinese perspective (Boxer Rebellion) B. The Open-Door policy c. Acquisition of Hawaii d. Naval bases: Samoa 3. Imperialism: the Spanish-American War a. Causes for war b. United States empire—Puerto Rico; Cuban protectorate (the Platt Amendment) Darwinism and the role of the press in (1) Acquisition of the Philippines: “the great debate” - (2) Disposition of territories (3) Constitutional issues…

**Golden Door (PG 13)**

1. The story is set at the beginning of the 20th century in Sicily. Salvatore, a very poor farmer, and a widower, decides to emigrate to the US with all his family, including his old mother. Before they embark, they meet Lucy. She is supposed to be a British lady and wants to come back to the States. Lucy, or Luce as Salvatore calls her, for unknown reasons wants to marry someone before to arriving in New York. Salvatore accepts the proposal. Once they arrive in Ellis Island they spend the quarantine period trying to pass the examinations to be admitted to the States. Tests are not so simple for poor farmers coming from Sicily. Their destiny is in the hands of the custom officers.
2. Citizenship, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Constitutional Principles, Diversity, Factors of Production, Migration, Places and Regions,
3. B. Immigration, 1850-1924 New sources: eastern/southern Europe; the “new ethnicity” immigrants (1850-1924) a. Case studies: Italian immigration, Chinese immigrant groups. Russian/Jewish immigration 2. The impulses abroad 3. The attractions here: labor shortages, liberty, and freedoms 4. Urbanization: ghettos 5. “Americanization” process 6. Impacts on family, religion, education, and politics 7. Contributions to American society a. Diversity of the United States population C. Reactions to the “new” immigration 1. Cultural pluralism: assimilation (Americanization), acculturation (“melting pot” or cultural pluralism), or both 2. Nativist reactions: stereotyping and prejudice (1) Case study: Irish immigration 3. Impact on African-Americans and other established minorities “Yellow Peril,” West Coast restrictions 5. Literacy testing, 1917 6. The Red Scare 7. Quota acts of 1921 and 1924

**In Dubious Battle ®**

1. An activist gets caught up in the labor movement for farm workers in California during the 1930s.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Individuals, Organizations, Constitutional Principles, Presidential Actions, Diversity, Change, Reform, Social Movements, Culture and Intellectual Life, Economic Systems, Civil Liberties Restrictions
3. II. THE GREAT DEPRESSION B. Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal: Relief, Government Students should compare and contrast recovery, and reform programs the New Deal with the Progressive and 1. Relief of human suffering a. Bank “holiday”; Emergency Banking Act terms of goals, leadership, and b. Federal Emergency Relief Act accomplishments. c. Unemployment: WPA, PWA, CCC; troubling equity issues 2. Recovery of the United States economy a. NRA: “codes of fair competition” b. Mortgage relief: HOLC, FHA c. First and second AAA, scarcity and parity 3. Search for effective reform (program examples) a. Banking: Glass-Steagall Act (FDIC) b. Stock market: SEC Systems c. Social Security d. Labor (1) Wagner Act (NLRB) (2) Labor Standards Act 4. Labor’s response: Formation of CIO 5. Controversial aspects of the New Deal a. Constitutional issues (1) Supreme Court and the NRA (Schechter Poultry Corp. v. United States, 1935) (2) Supreme Court and the AAA (3) TVA: model yardstick or creeping socialism,

**No God, No Master**

1. When a series of package bombs show up on the doorsteps of prominent politicians and businessmen in the summer of 1919, U.S. Bureau of Investigation Agent William Flynn (Strathairn) is assigned the task of finding those responsible. He becomes immersed in an investigation that uncovers an anarchist plot to destroy democracy. Inspired by true events of the 20s the film sets the stage for a timely thriller with resoundingly similar parallels to the contemporary war on terrorism and the role government plays to defeat it.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Individuals, Organizations, Constitutional Principles, Presidential Actions, Diversity, Change, Reform, Social Movements, Culture and Intellectual Life, Economic Systems, Civil Liberties Restrictions
3. B. Immigration, 1850-1924 New sources: eastern/southern Europe; the “new ethnicity” immigrants (1850-1924) a. Case studies: Italian immigration, Chinese immigrant groups. Russian/Jewish immigration 2. The impulses abroad 3. The attractions here: labor shortages, liberty, and freedoms 4. Urbanization: ghettos 5. “Americanization” process 6. Impacts on family, religion, education, and politics 7. Contributions to American society a. Diversity of the United States population C. Reactions to the “new” immigration 1. Cultural pluralism: assimilation (Americanization), acculturation (“melting pot” or cultural pluralism), or both 2. Nativist reactions: stereotyping and prejudice (1) Case study: Irish immigration 3. Impact on African-Americans and other established minorities“Yellow Peril,” West Coast restrictions 5. Literacy testing, 1917 6. The Red Scare 7. Quota acts of 1921 and 1924

**Matewan (PG 13)**

1. A labor union organizer comes to an embattled mining community brutally and violently dominated and harassed by the mining company.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Individuals, Organizations, Constitutional Principles, Presidential Actions, Diversity, Change, Reform, Social Movements, Culture and Intellectual Life, Economic Systems, Civil Liberties Restrictions
3. III. ADJUSTING SOCIETY TO INDUSTRIALISM: AMERICAN PEOPLE AND PLACES E. Labor’s response to economic change: Organize Factors of 1. Efforts at national labor unions: Knights of Production Labor (1869); AF of L (1881-1886); ILGWU Human (1900) Systems a. “Bread and butter” objectives b. Unions and social issues (education) c. Attitudes toward immigrants, African-Americans, women d. Union leadership (Gompers, Debs) 2. Struggle and conflict a. Major strikes: gains and losses— Homestead, Pullman (In Re Debs, 1895), Lawrence b. Management’s position c. Weapons or tactics employed in disputes between labor and management d. Attitude and role of government

**Reds (PG)**

1. A radical American journalist becomes involved with the Communist revolution in Russia, and hopes to bring its spirit and idealism to the United States.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Constitutional Principles, Presidential Actions, Diversity, Change, Social Movements, Culture and Intellectual Life, Civil Liberties Restrictions, Economic Systems
3. B. Restraint and involvement: 1914-1920 1. United States involvement a. Efforts at neutrality and “preparedness” b. Causes of United States entry into World c. United States role in the war d. United States reaction to the Russian Revolution C. Wartime constitutional issues 1. War opposition and patriotism: the draft issue 2. Espionage and Sedition acts 3. Schenck v. United States, 1919; clear and present danger doctrine 4. Red Scare, 1918-1919

**Iron Jawed Angels (NR)**

1. Defiant young activists take the women’s suffrage movement by storm, putting their lives at risk to help American women win the right to vote.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Constitutional Principles, Presidential Actions, Diversity, Change, Reform, Social Movements, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. Woodrow Wilson and the New Freedom a. Progressivism at its zenith; the 1912 election e. Women’s suffrage amendment 5. World War I: effect on domestic reform

**Cesar Chavez (PG 13)**

1. A biography of the civil rights leader and activist.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Individuals, Organizations, Constitutional Principles, Presidential Actions, Diversity, Change, Reform, Social Movements, Culture and Intellectual Life, Economic Systems, Civil Liberties Restrictions
3. 5. Rising consciousness of Hispanic-Americans a. “Brown power” movement b. Organizing farm labor (Cesar Chavez)

**Malcolm X (PG 13)**

1. Biographical epic of the controversial and influential Black Nationalist leader, from his early life and career as a small-time gangster, to his ministry as a member of the Nation of Islam
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Constitutional Principles, Presidential Actions, Diversity, Change, Reform, Social Movements, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. …3. Continued demands for equality: civil rights movement a. Black protest, pride, and power (1) NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People): legal judicial leadership, Urban League b. Case studies (1) SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee): sit-in movement among college students (2) SCLC (Southern Christian Leader-ship Conference): promote nonviolent resistance, sit-ins, boycotts (3) CORE (Congress of Racial Equality): “Freedom Riders” (4) Testing of segregation laws (5) Others: Black Muslims; prominence of Malcolm X: advocating separation of races, separate state in the United States (6) Civil unrest: Watts riot, 1965, as example; Kerner Commission (7) Assassination of Malcolm X (February 1965) c. Legislative impact (1) Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States, 1964), modifications since 1964 (2) 24th Amendment (eliminating poll tax) (3) Voting Rights Act, 1965 (4) Court decisions since 1948 upholding or modifying preferential treatment in employment; equal access to housing; travel and accommodations; voting rights; educational equity (5) Fair Housing Act, 1968…

**Selma (PG 13)**

1. A chronicle of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Constitutional Foundations, Individuals, Constitutional Principles, Presidential Actions, Diversity, Change, Reform, Social Movements, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. …3. Continued demands for equality: civil rights movement a. Black protest, pride, and power (1) NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People): legal judicial leadership, Urban League b. Case studies (1) SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee): sit-in movement among college students (2) SCLC (Southern Christian Leader-ship Conference): promote nonviolent resistance, sit-ins, boycotts (3) CORE (Congress of Racial Equality): “Freedom Riders” (4) Testing of segregation laws (5) Others: Black Muslims; prominence of Malcolm X: advocating separation of races, separate state in the United States (6) Civil unrest: Watts riot, 1965, as example; Kerner Commission (7) Assassination of Malcolm X (February 1965) c. Legislative impact (1) Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States, 1964), modifications since 1964 (2) 24th Amendment (eliminating poll tax) (3) Voting Rights Act, 1965 (4) Court decisions since 1948 upholding or modifying preferential treatment in employment; equal access to housing; travel and accommodations; voting rights; educational equity (5) Fair Housing Act, 1968…

**Loving (PG 13)**

1. The story of Richard and Mildred Loving, a couple whose arrest for interracial marriage in 1960s Virginia began a legal battle that would end with the Supreme Court's historic 1967 decision.
2. Citizenship, Civic Values, Government, Individuals, Organizations, Constitutional Principles, Diversity, Change, Reform, Social Movements, Culture and Intellectual Life
3. …3. Continued demands for equality: civil rights movement a. Black protest, pride, and power (1) NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People): legal judicial leadership, Urban League b. Case studies (1) SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee): sit-in movement among college students (2) SCLC (Southern Christian Leader-ship Conference): promote nonviolent resistance, sit-ins, boycotts (3) CORE (Congress of Racial Equality): “Freedom Riders” (4) Testing of segregation laws (5) Others: Black Muslims; prominence of Malcolm X: advocating separation of races, separate state in the United States (6) Civil unrest: Watts riot, 1965, as example; Kerner Commission (7) Assassination of Malcolm X (February 1965) c. Legislative impact (1) Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States, 1964), modifications since 1964 (2) 24th Amendment (eliminating poll tax) (3) Voting Rights Act, 1965 (4) Court decisions since 1948 upholding or modifying preferential treatment in employment; equal access to housing; travel and accommodations; voting rights; educational equity (5) Fair Housing Act, 1968…

**The Killing Floor (PG)**

**Glory ®**

**Lincoln (PG 13)**

**Northern Lights**

**The Kennedys (TV 14)**

**Trumbo ®**

**Into the West (TV 14)**

**Deepwater Horizon (PG 13)**

**Sources:**

Imdb.com

Nysed.gov