**Course Description:** United States History is a yearlong, junior-level course that explores important persons, events, relationships, and themes in the history of the US, starting with the period of European colonization and extending through the modern era. Upon completion of the course students should understand America's role in history and how she, as a nation, impacted other nations and world politics.

**Textbook:** United States History and Geography, McGraw Hill

**Classroom Policies:**

1. Attendance: Students are expected to be in class every day. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to check the class calendar, confer with a fellow classmate, or see Mr. Rude to get caught up.
2. Tardiness: You must be in the room when class starts, or you will be counted tardy. After three tardies, you will be required to serve a detention.
3. Materials: Students are expected to bring a writing utensil, paper, a binder, and their textbook to class every day. (***Note:*** *You are strongly encouraged to bring personal laptops to class to use as an academic tool.)*
4. Late-work: Assignments that are turned in on time will be graded and receive full credit. Assignments turned in after the due date will be worth 50% of their original value.
5. Evaluation*:* Student grades will be assigned according to the scale adopted by the International School of Sosúa with assignments, projects, quizzes, papers, and summative exams all factoring in to the calculation of a student’s final course grade.

**Curriculum Overview:** ISS has adopted the American Education Reaches Out (AERO) Standards and Performance Indicators for Social Studies. These standards were designed by the US State Department for implementation in American international schools to ensure vertical alignment of skills and content delivered in Social Studies courses. The AERO framework is aligned with research-based trends in the development of curriculum worldwide, and particularly with the Common Core initiative in the United States. Social Studies classes at ISS will require students to develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills in the context of relevant, “real world,” engaging issues. In addition, these classes will prepare students to be effective, contributing members of their local community and to be informed, active citizens of their country and of the world.

**Learning Objectives:** Project AERO has taken the position that the above-described ends can be achieved in a k-12 program by focusing on eight standards (big ideas) for learning:

**Standard 1 (**Time, Continuity, and Change) Students will understand patterns of change and continuity, relationships between people and events through time, and various interpretations of these relationships.

**Standard 2** (Connections and Conflict) Students will understand causes and effects of interaction among societies, including trade, systems of international exchange, war, and diplomacy.

**Standard 3 (**Geography) Students will understand the interactions and relationship between human societies and their physical environment.

**Standard 4 (**Culture) Students will understand cultural and intellectual developments and interactions among societies.

**Standard 5 (**Society and Identity) Students will understand social systems and structures and how these influence individual.

**Standard 6 (**Government) Students will understand why societies create and adopt systems of governance and how they address human needs, rights, responsibilities and citizenship.

**Standard 7 (**Production, Distribution, and Consumption) Students will understand fundamental economic principles and ways in which economies are shaped by geographic and human factors.

**Standard 8 (**Science, Technology, and Society) Students will understand how societies have influenced and been influenced by scientific developments and technological developments.

**\*Academic Honor Code:** As a university preparatory school, ISS students must learn proper research methods and accepted practices. The integrity of the both the student and our school requires complete academic honesty on all assignments, papers, and presentations. Cheating, plagiarism, and test dishonesty are serious violations of school rules and community values. Such dishonest behavior will not be tolerated. Parents will be notified and a copy of communication will be kept on file in the student’s academic record.

**\*Classroom Code of Conduct based on Cultivating the ISS Work Habits:**

* RESPECT your classmates, your teacher, and yourself*.* We must treat each other with kindness to establish a classroom environment in which everyone is able to learn.
* Drinks with a sealable lid are allowed and small snacks are ok. I will ask you to put all other food or drink away that I feel is disruptive to our class. Please respect our classroom by helping to keep it clean.
* You will receive clear instructions when cell phones and other electronic devices can be used for academic purposes; these devices should be put away at all other times. Please communicate with me at the beginning of class if there is an emergency situation that warrants the use of your cell phone.

***\*Infractions will be dealt with according to the International School of Sosúa discipline matrix.***

**\*\*Syllabus Signature:** My goal is that all students find this course challenging but not to the point where it becomes overwhelming. Students, I believe that the best way to ensure success as a high school student is to take responsibility for your actions and advocate for your own learning needs. If you are struggling, please find a time to see me so that we can make a plan to help you succeed.

***\*\*Please sign, date, and detach along on the dotted line below. Keep the above portion with your class materials for your personal reference throughout the year.***

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*The instructor reserves the right to modify policies/consequences when the situation requires.*

**I have read and agree to abide by the policies and rules set forth in this class syllabus:**

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Student Signature & Name (Print) Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date