

## History of the Americas (HOTA) Syllabus

### Thematic Units

Independence Movements  
 Nation building and challenges  
 United States Civil War: causes, course and effects  
 The Mexican Revolution  
 The United States and the First World War  
 The Second World War and the Americas

### Projects and assessments

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Test Date</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
Independence	Battle Briefing Research Paper George Washington vs...		Paper 3
Nation building	Constitutional Issues (CBA) Jackson Impeachment		P3/State Req.
US Civil War	Night at the Oscars		Test
Internal Assessment-- Mexican Revolution	Journal/Seminar		IA Criteria Paper 3
WWI	Group Presentation		Test
WWII	Puppet Show		

**History Americas is the first part of a two-year Higher Level IB course. IB exams for this course are taken in May of your senior year.**

### Quiz and Project Dates (TBA)

Independence:	Quizzes	; Project due
Nation building:	Quizzes	; Project due
US Civil War:	Quizzes	; Project due
Mexican Rev.:	Quizzes	; Project due
WWI:	Quizzes	; Project due
WWII:	Quizzes	; Project due

### Assessment

There will be basically 3 kinds of assessment. 1) Each unit will have one or more quizzes. Each quiz will cover the required reading and class activities and notes since the last quiz or test. Quizzes will be multiple choice and short answer. 2) In addition, each unit will have a project associated with it. Projects may take the form of individual or group presentations. 3) Each unit will end with a test, which might be a traditional knowledge assessment (multiple choice, matching, short answer) or an IB Paper 3 essay (scored using the Paper 3 criteria).

Quiz and project scoring: these assessments are more about developing knowledge and comprehension than analysis and may be researched and completed outside of class. Scoring is on a straight scale. The information from the quizzes and projects will be needed in order to be able to use it analytically on tests. Missed quizzes must be made up after school as soon as possible after the quiz date and no later than the Wednesday after the quiz.

Project due dates will be provided. Due means you come to class with the finished product, ready to be handed in. Do not plan on going to the library to run it off when it is asked for; if you need to staple pages together, do it before class starts. If you are absent the day the project is due you may email me your project to “stop the clock,” so that it won’t be counted late, but you must turn in a hard copy the next day you are in class. It will be considered “on time” only if the time stamp on the email is no later than when the class would start on the day it is due. If your project is a presentation, you must be prepared to present, whether your partner or other group members are present. If not, the project is considered late. There will be a 5% reduction for each day a project is late.

Classroom Expectations: to be successful in this class, you need to be present, on time and on task.

Absences:

UNEXCUSED: Each unexcused absence is an automatic 2% reduction from your final grade. If the unexcused absence occurs on the day of a test, quiz, or project due date, that work cannot be made up and will receive a zero.

EXCUSED: Work missed because of an excused absence needs to be made up by the end of the unit to avoid a 10 point reduction (per occurrence) in the project grade for that unit. For excused absences, if a lecture is missed, you will need to show me the copied lecture notes from that period and your reflection on the lecture notes. If you miss a video or class presentation, you will need to watch the video or talk to the presenters and write a one-page summary of the video and presentation(s).

Tardies: You are allowed 3 unexcused tardies per semester. Thereafter, there will be a 10-point reduction of your project grade in the unit in which the 4<sup>th</sup> and subsequent unexcused tardies occur.

In class: It is imperative that you not disrupt or leave the learning environment. Examples of disruptive behavior: having your cell phone out or not turned off during class, working on something else during class, sleeping in class, carrying on private conversations, etc. As to leaving the learning environment, the primary example is a “bathroom break” or leaving class for any reason other than a teacher or administrator asking to see you. The maximum cumulative number here is 3; thereafter your project grade for the unit will be reduced by 10 points per occurrence.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via school email. My email address is: [mdeakins@osd.wednet.edu](mailto:mdeakins@osd.wednet.edu)