**US History   
Miss Natalie Kainz, Room R8  
nataliek@askosova.org**

**Class Content**

Welcome to our US History course for the 2013-2014 school year at ASK! This course is designed to give your child the knowledge and skills they need to interpret the history of the United States of America and critically analyze its current role in our world. We will begin studying Westward Expansion and end up in current time by the end of the year.

Your son or daughter’s active participation is extremely important in this class. One of my goals as your child’s teacher is to have him/her develop confidence in their own ideas and opinions, and feel comfortable sharing and even debating them with their peers. The five key skills I hope to help your child develop are the abilities to **communicate clearly with others verbally and in writing, research issues thoroughly, debate, negotiate, and develop confidence in their own opinions**.

**Units we will cover this year include:**  
-Creation of the USA 1500s-1700s  
-Westward Expansion 1800s  
-Immigration and Industrialization 1880s-1920s  
-American Expansion and Imperialism 1898-1920  
-Progressive Era and the Great Depression 1920-1930s   
-WWII and the start of the Cold War 1930s-1950s  
-The Cold War, Civil Rights, and Vietnam 1950s-1990s  
-Modern US interventions abroad and the War on Terror 1990s-now

**Assessment:**  **Test and Unit Assessments 30%  
Quiz 10%  
Homework 10%  
Class Participation 20%  
Papers and Projects 30%**

**ASK/JMM Project:**The one major project I will be facilitating with your son or daughter throughout the whole year is a cross-cultural exchange project with students in Madison, Wisconsin. This is the 3rd year of this project between our schools. Your student will be required to communicate online with one other student from the US at least 3 times this year. Ask your son or daughter for more info, or ask me questions!

**Class Website**: <http://askmissnatalie.weebly.com/>  
Please check my class website to keep updated on our daily lessons and upcoming assignments, tests, and projects!

**Communication and Extra Help:**   
I am here before school, after school, and on my breaks to help your child if he or she needs it. I will often ask struggling students to stay after school for extra help, but it is up to them to show up. Please encourage your child to let me know when they need to talk or need help with something from class. I am also available via email if you have questions or want to arrange an appointment to discuss your child’s learning in more detail ([nataliek@askosova.org](mailto:nataliek@askosova.org))