

ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. HISTORY SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Advanced Placement U.S. History (APUSH) is a rigorous high school course developed to meet California Social Science Standards and graduation requirements for high school juniors as well as provide preparation for the AP Exam offered each May of the school year. This course is the equivalent of a college level course and students will need significant reading and writing skills to be able to interpret documents, to develop written, thoughtful and analytical responses that employ critical thinking skills as well as verbal evaluative responses. The primary purpose of this class is to increase the student's understanding of United States history from discovery to the present in order to adequately prepare them to take the Advance Placement Exam given in early May.

This class will include the study of topics from early inhabitants to the New World, Colonial America, the Revolutionary War, Constitutional development, the Jeffersonian and Jacksonian eras, 19th century reform movements, Sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Subject matter will also include the study of the Gilded Age, Populism, Progressivism, World War I, the 1920s, the Great Depression and New Deal, World War II and the Cold War, post Cold-War and the United States to the beginning of the 21st century. Incorporated in the comprehensive study of U.S. History will be themes addressing areas of diversity, national identity and citizenship, industrialization, immigration and cultural pluralism, economic transformations, shifting demographics and culture along with the investigation of social and intellectual institutions. Students will examine past annals to create a better understanding of the interconnection between historical events and how these events influence modern history.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

It is intended that each student will develop:

- Knowledge of the social, political, economic and intellectual foundations that have laid the foundation for different historical currents that have run through, around and sadly, at times, over the peoples that make up our national citizenry and their ancestors.
- A greater awareness of how these peoples influenced the development of the modern nation we now live in.
- Better critical thinking skills through historical inquiry.
- More effective oral and written communication skills.

To accomplish these goals, each student will be taught to:

- Recall specific facts and interpretations emphasized in lectures, readings, activities, class discussion and independent research.
- Interpret historical data by observing, classifying, inferring, comparing and contrasting a variety of historical sources.
- Evaluate both primary and secondary sources comparing the social, political and economic backdrop of the time period of the event and/or recording of the event then provide reasoned opinions as their validity and influence.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS and SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS/TEXTS:

Bailey, Thomas A. & David M. Kennedy. *The American Pageant*: 16th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2016.

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS/READINGS (May include, but are not limited to):

Bailey, Thomas A. & David M. Kennedy. *The American Spirit*: Volumes 1 & 2: Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1998.

Brown, Victoria Bissel & Timothy J. Shannon. *Going to the Source: The Bedford Reader in American History*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2004.

Gordon, Colin. *Major Problems in American History 1920-1945*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999.

Heller, Jason Stacy. *Documenting United States History*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2016

Hutchison, Michael. *DBQ Practice Book 1 and Book 2*. Culver City: Social Studies School Service, 2003.

Johnson, Michael P. *Reading the American Past: Selected Historical Documents*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005.

Kupermann, Karen Ordahl. *Indians & English: Facing Off in Early America*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2000.

Parrish, Michael. *Anxious Decades*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1992.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Required Materials

Students will be required to have a 3" notebook dedicated to the sole use for AP U.S. History organized with dividers and labeled as follows:

- Lecture Notes
- Handouts
- Reading Guides/Homework
- Class Assignments
- Tests

Notebooks will be checked, graded and returned periodically throughout the school year. Due dates for each notebook check will be included with the student homework calendar.

Homework/Reading

Students will be required to participate in reading and homework assignments outside of the class period. Reading guides for each chapter will be distributed to each student along with due dates for each assignment. Students are expected to complete reading and guides before the assigned due dates. It is important that students budget their time wisely in order to be prepared for each class lesson.

CLASS ORGANIZATION:

Students will be given a class syllabus with detailed information about course requirements, curriculum details, and student expectations. The course will include, but is not limited to: reading assignments, class lecture, in-class student activities, group assignments, written essays and responses, discussion seminars, and research projects. As this class is intended to simulate a college course, students enrolled in an AP course can expect to have regular homework and complete work/research assignments/projects outside of the classroom.

Assessment

Students will be given unit tests at the conclusion of each unit. Assessments will include multiple choice tests, key term tests, in-class free response questions (FRQ) and document based questions (DBQ). Assessments will also include research projects and classroom assignments. Cumulative semester tests will be given during first and second semester finals. Assessments will be used to determine student comprehension of historical information and the application of this information to analysis and evaluation using critical thinking skills.

Writing Prompts

Writing prompts will be completed throughout the school year and will include free response questions and document based questions. Writing prompts will be graded using the AP College Board rubric. Students will be given a rubric at the beginning of the course as well as appropriate training for completing a successful writing prompt.

Additional Information

Homework/reading guides and other classroom assignments are expected to be turned-in on the required due dates. Late work will result in half credit or no credit after 1 day late. Illegible or incorrect formatting of assignments will be returned (not graded) to students. Students that are absent with a valid excuse as per school policy on the day an assignment is due should make every effort to have an associate student turn in their assignment or must have their assignment ready on the day of their return. Projects and long term assignments will be considered late if not received on the designated due date and students will receive a zero for the assignment. All tests must be taken on the assigned date. In the event of illness or valid excuse as per school policy, students will be expected to make up their test on the day of their return or with special arrangements with

the instructor. Tests or quizzes not made up within the equal number of absent days will result in "0" grade points.

Time management is crucial for students to be prepared for each class period. Assignments will include homework, student activities, writing prompts, and research projects that will vary in length. It is important that students budget their time and use the assignment calendar to plan ahead. As this course is designed to simulate a college course, students are expected to treat the course as such and provide the necessary effort to create a successful classroom experience. Students are encouraged to seek help and ask questions to the instructor rather than become discouraged! Consistent effort and the willingness to improve are essential keys to achievement.

All students enrolled in AP U.S. History are encouraged to take the AP U.S. History Exam in May of each school year. There are practice books available through any bookstore or online for students to become familiar with the format of the test.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Evaluation: Grade summaries will be available through the AERIES portal for parents to have the opportunity to view missing assignments and current marks. Grade summaries will also be posted in the classroom on a periodic basis for students. Students' final grades for each quarter will be derived from a combination of the following:

- daily work~occurs between 1-3 times week, each assignment is usually about one class period in length
- written assignments~ used periodically to check for understanding and reinforce important concepts
- tests~ given as a culminating activity to each unit
- final exam~ given as an in class exam at the end of each semester covering the concepts from the beginning of the semester
- citizenship~ comprises 5% of quarter grade, meant to promote student contribution in building community in the classroom and on campus.
- Attendance~comprises up to 10% of quarter grade to encourage student participation and a successful classroom experience

Grading: Semester grades are based on the accumulation of points in each quarter. Grade percentages are converted to the following:

"A+"=98%-100%

"C-"=70%-73%

"A" =94%-97%

"D+"=68%-69%

"A-"=90%-93%

"D" =64%-67%

"B+"=88%-89%

"D-"=60%-63%

"B" =84%-87%

"B-"=80%-83%

"C+"=78%-79%

"C" =74%-77%

Grade of Fail (F)

Grades of Fail will be earned by those students who:

- 1) Earn below 60%; and/or
- 2) Do not do all the work required; and/or
- 3) do not follow the school's attendance policy and/or do not complete required assignments

Student Conduct:

- 1· Respect~ students are expected to respect themselves, others and the environment
- 2· Punctuality~ students are expected to be in their seat and ready for class on time
- 3· Preparedness~ students are expected to always bring materials to class, i.e. assignments, textbooks, notebook, pen and pencil

Cheating:

Students are encouraged to help each other and work together; however cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes attempting to take credit for someone else's effort including homework assignments, essays, and plagiarism of another's work. Any student found cheating will receive a negative 100% (NOT a "0") and a parent conference.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit will be offered occasionally throughout the school year and will be available to all students. Students are encouraged to take advantage of extra credit, but not to rely on extra credit to maintain their grade standing.

Please detach this last page of the syllabus on the next school day ~ Keep the remaining syllabus in the front of your binder

I have read, discussed, understand and agree to abide by the provisions of this course syllabus for AP U.S. History.

Student Name and
Signature: _____

Parent Name and Signature:

Date: _____ Period: _____ Home Phone: _____
