

Advanced Placement United States History Course Syllabus

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Course Design: AP U.S. History is a challenging course that is meant to be the equivalent of a freshman college course and can earn students college credit. It is a two-semester survey of American history from the age of exploration and discovery to the present. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, interpretation of original documents, and historiography. This course is writing intensive and will require weekly essay writing and research paper writing on occasion.

Course Objectives – Students will

- master a broad body of historical knowledge
- demonstrate an understanding of historical chronology
- use historical data to support an argument or position
- interpret and apply data from original documents, including cartoons, graphs, letters, ect.
- effectively use analytical skills of evaluation, cause and effect, compare and contrast
- work effectively with others to produce products and solve problems
- prepare for and successfully pass the Advance Placement Exam

Materials: Materials required

Large 3 Ring Binder

#2 pencil

Pen (blue or black ink only)

Glue sticks

Highlighter

Colored pencils

Notebook dividers (At least 10)

Flash cards

Post-Its

Textbook: *American History: A Survey, 12th Edition* (Provided)

AP U.S. History Review Book (\$17.00) (inquire if this cost is an issue)

Grading and Policies: Your grade is based on a point system. Your binders will be graded every two weeks. Successful students will attend regularly, come to class on time, participate in class, and do all assigned work. **All work that is graded must be written in blue or black ink only (or typed).** No assignments written in pencil are accepted. The following is a “rough” breakdown of the grading percentages expected for this class.

- Testes and Quizzes = 50%
- Essays (FRQs & DBQs) = 30%
- Homework = 10%
- Participation = 10%

Everything receives points. **Grades are based on a cumulative point total for each quarter.** This means that quarter and final exam grades are not averaged to determine a semester grade. At every grading period all points you have earned up to that time are added, then divided by the total number of points possible to calculate a percentage score. You will receive your grade on the percentage score you attained.

Percentage grading scale:

90 – 100 = **A** 89 – 80 = **B** 79 – 70 = **C** 69 – 55 = **D** 54 – lower = **F**

- As per California Education Code and District Policy, the student must create all work. **Cheating of any kind will result in a grade of zero on the assignment or test and notification of your parent or guardian and a strong recommendation for removal from the AP program.**

Attendance and Make-up Policies:

- **Late work is deducted 50%.**
- There will be no make-up work given (except for excused absences)
- There is a course syllabus provided for students to come prepared for class and find his/her missed homework
- It is the student’s responsibility to get the work from the teacher **on the day you return** to school.
- Make-up assignment will not be given after a student’s first day after returning from and absence.
- **If you are absent on the day of a test, you have one week** to take an alternative make-up test during lunch or after school.
- Tests that are not made-up within a week of the original test date will automatically turn into a zero grade.

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Rules: All school rules apply to the classroom, which include attendance, tardy, and discipline policies. **Tardiness and excessive absences will lower your grade.**

Keys Guidelines: In order to succeed, these basic guidelines must be followed:

1. **Respect people.** Everyone has the right to express his/her opinion in an appropriate manner. One of the critical goals of this class is to learn to be respectful of opinions even if you disagree with them.
2. **Come to class on time and prepared to work.** Always bring your pen, pencil, and be prepared for that days lesson.
3. **Do not disturb the learning process.** Talking out of turn, applying make-up, hair brushing, using cell phones or listening to music are disruptive to the class.
4. **Participate.** Take control of your education – be an active participant in your school experience.
5. **Follow all School Rules.**

Tardy Policy:

- Students are expected to be on time, inside the classroom seated and ready to work before the tardy bell rings.
- There will be parental contact for all students that have excessive tardies.
Tardy 1 – warning, Tardy 2 – 30 minute detention and parent contacted, Tardy 3 – Saturday School, Tardy 4 – detention, Tardy 5 – detention doubled, Tardy 6 – Saturday School, Tardy 7 – Unsatisfactory for class.

Keys to Success:

- Do the assigned work and follow Mr. Ashby’s educational guidance. He has proven results that if you come to class prepared, do the homework, essay writing, study for the tests and review the material YOU WILL PASS THE AP TEST.
- Write, Write, and Write: You will have more essays in this class than you have had in all of your high school classes combined. I promise you this. This is not only a history course it is a writing course.
- Come to as many after school reviews as possible. If you are not able to attend after school do the review process at home or with a study group.
- Review, Review, and Review: Just because you learned the material once does not mean you know it and understand it later in the year. Studies show that it takes 3 to 5 times of studying a topic to fully understand its meaning and relevance.

Textbook Online: This website is made for the textbook that we use in this class. It has many helpful reviews, chapter summaries, documents, and links to other websites. **It also has online quizzes that will be required for you to take on a weekly basis.** You will be required to have an email address and create a user account for this website to access it.

Textbook website: http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0073124923/student_view0/

By signing this form you agree to all conditions and agree to work hard and strive for a passing grade.

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____