AP U.S. History Course Syllabus

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**PURPOSE**

The Advanced Placement program in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials of United States history and to prepare them for the AP exam. **The course prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college survey courses**. In this pursuit, the acquisition of factual knowledge is the beginning point of the process, not the end. Students will learn to interpret and evaluate the relative significance of primary and secondary source material, and to present their evidence and conclusions clearly and persuasively in an essay format.

Topics for this course include life and thought in colonial America, revolutionary philosophy, constitutional development, early American democracy, nineteenth century reform movements, and Manifest Destiny. Other topics include Civil War and Reconstruction, industrialism, Populism and Progressivism, Imperialism and World War I, the Roaring 20’s and the Great Depression, World War II and the Cold War, social reform movements of the 1950s and 1960s, and finally the post Cold War era.

Themes will include American diversity and cultural identity, demographic changes, economic trends, environmental issues, evolution of democracy and citizenship, foreign policy and diplomacy, history of slavery and its legacy, the impact of religion on the social and political development of the U.S. and lastly the increasing role of the U.S. in global affairs.

**BASIC AND SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS AND READINGS**

Basic text - Henretta, Hinderaker, Edwards, and Self

America’s History, Bedford St. Martins, 2013, 8th Edition

Thomas A. Bailey, David M. Kennedy,

The American Spirit, Volumes I and II, Houghton Mifflin, ninth edition

Daniel J. Boorstin, Brooks M. Kelly – editors

Perspectives: Readings on American History in the 20th Century, Prentice Hall, 1992

Robert James Maddox – editor,

Annual Editions: American History, Volumes I and II, McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2003,

17th Edition

Students may find it helpful to take notes as they study the text and will be provided with a list of identifications and key questions to help students focus on important people and events. The Unit study guides can be found at www.connallyushistory.weebly.com

Students may find that using an AP U.S. History Test Preparation booklet very useful. I have catalogs that offer a number of editions and offer discounts for purchases of five or more. Remember, this is **optional**.

**MATERIALS**

Students are expected to keep a notebook (3 ring binder) dedicated for AP U.S. History. The APUSH notebook should be 2 inches and be maintained all year. Use dividers to organize your notebook. Sections will be divided by units. Black and blue pens and your own personal small stapler.

**GRADING**

Grading will consist of four major components: Tests, Essays, Assignments and Quizzes. Formal grades (tests, essays, projects) count 70%. Informal Grades (quizzes, outlines, ID cards, class assignments, DBQ analysis, etc) will count 30%. AP students are allowed to retake **ONE** formal test each quarter.

**TESTS AND ESSAYS**

Tests will generally consist of a multiple-choice section and a writing section. Each test is likely to cover a significantly greater volume of material than many students have previously experienced. Tests and essays will emphasize factual information, multiple causation/multiple outcomes, and the concept of change over time and will require students to interpret and evaluate the events of history and support their conclusions with relevant specific factual information. There are likely to be no more than seven to eight major grades per quarter. **The limited number of grades per quarter means that each major grade has a significant impact on the quarter grade**. Students need to be aware of this and responsibly prepare for each major assignment. THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT GIVEN IN THIS COURSE.

In addition to tests, two to three additional timed class essays will be required per quarter. Each will count as a major grade. Pop quizzes may be used if it is apparent that students need additional incentive to responsibly keep up with reading assignments.

**HOMEWORK**

Homework will consist of reading assignments with supplemental handouts to reinforce major themes, Homework can consist of readings, short answer questions, identifications, and writing exercises. As students, you are responsible for completing and mastering assignments on time**. I WILL NOT ACCEPT EMAILED ASSIGNMENTS. ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE HAND WRITTEN IN BLUE OR BLACK INK.**

**MAKE-UP WORK**

Attendance in class is absolutely essential to the successful completion of the course and to the attainment of a passing grade on the National Advanced Placement Examination. Students returning from excused absences are responsible for completing missed in class assignments promptly (within five school days). Be aware that the instructor is under no obligation to accept work after its assigned due date. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

**ADDITIONAL HELP**

The AP experience may place greater demands on students than those to which they are accustomed. It is likely that you will need to meet with the instructor from time to time to overcome problems you are having. I welcome those opportunities to help you one-to-one, and I encourage you to make arrangements to see me if you're experiencing difficulty. Mandatory conferences will be scheduled with those students experiencing significant difficulty. I will be available any morning when I don’t have morning duty from 6:45 to 7:00 and **TUESDAY AFTERNOONS** for any students wishing to receive additional help.

**NATIONAL ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATION**

The Advanced Placement Program of the College Board affords students the opportunity to receive college credit for AP classes by successfully passing a national examination. The AP United States History Examination consists of the following:

* Section 1 (1 hour and 40 minutes) – 55 multiple choice questions accounting for 40% of the final score and 4 short-answer questions accounting for 20% of the final score
* Section 2 (1 hour and 35 minutes) – 1 DBQ and 2 long essays. Students can choose which of the two long essays to respond to.

**Rules**

There are a few things that I expect from you as students besides following all of the rules within the Student Code of Conduct. Students are expected to abide by the following rules in the classroom…

1. Be respectful to one another and your teacher.
2. Be prepared for class on a daily basis by bringing the proper materials and being ready to learn.
3. Be committed to your education and doing the best that you can.
4. ALL STUDENTS SHOULD BE SEATED AND READY TO START CLASS WHEN THE BELL RINGS.
5. There will be no eating or drinking (except WATER) during class, it will be collected and thrown away.
6. Pre-Trailer: CELL PHONES ARE TO BE TURNED OFF and NOT VISIBLE AT ANY POINT DURING CLASS. If they ring and/or are being used at any point they will be taken away and sent to the office.

Post-Trailer: CELL PHONES WILL BE COLLECT AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. Once the class is done with notes and discussion you will receive you phone back.

1. Profanity of any sort will not be tolerated and a referral will be written.
2. NO ONE CAN LEAVE THE FIRST AND LAST 15 MINUTES OF CLASS. There is only one person allowed out of class at a time.

**\*\*\*All CMS rules apply\*\*\***

**Behavior Consequences:**

If infractions of classroom rules occur, the following consequences may be administered, depending on the severity of the action.

1. Verbal Warning or Removal from Class
2. Conference with Student
3. Assigned ASD (After School Detention)
4. Parent Call
5. Referral

**Procedures:**

Please be advised of the following procedures and grading policies within this course…

1. Keep the classroom clean. Pick up and throw away trash around your desk area.
2. I will provide 1 copy of handouts and assignments. Additional copies may be obtained from my website.
3. Assignments will not be accepted late or without the proper heading…no credit and no excuses!!! The heading should be on the upper right hand side and on anything turned in. It is as follows:

Name (Your Name)

Class (U.S. History)

Class Period

1. It is your responsibility to get make-up work if you have an excused absence.

Make-up tests will be given after school (and may be in essay form) within 1

week (5 school days). Also, you have 5 days to complete make-up work.

1. Tutoring, extra help, or make-up (recovery) will be available on a weekly basis on Tuesday. If

help is needed on a day other than Tuesday, bring it to my attention and alternative arrangements

can be made.

# Grading scale Breakdown of assignments in class\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A 100-90 Formal 70%

B 89-80 (Ex: Tests, Projects, Papers)

C 79-70

D 69-60 Informal 30%

F 59-0 (Ex: Homework, Classwork, Quizzes)