

Advanced Placement United States History Syllabus

Welcome to AP US History! Throughout this course we will be looking at the history of this country from its discovery by European explorers to the end of the twentieth century. This course will also prepare you to take the Advanced Placement Exam on May 06, 2021. Successfully passing the exam can earn you college credit. The reason colleges give credit for passing the exam is that they are satisfied that the course was equivalent to a college course. Consider this class to be a college course. That means this class will be difficult, but I will make sure that it is still “doable.” I expect nothing but your best this year and I will give you nothing less than my best in return. Good luck and welcome again!

About the Course:

The course is divided into 5 units that correspond to the 9 Eras (or Periods as the College Board calls them) of American History. The approximate percentage of class time spent on each era corresponds to the approximate percentage of each era on the AP Exam. Each era builds on the earlier ones so it is extremely important to regularly review old material. Students will be given a framework of what you need to know – and you should study this framework frequently and carefully!

Materials Needed:

- A computer
- Internet access
- The Enduring Vision, A History of the American People, 5th Edition by Boyer Each chapter will be available through PDF form
- Typical school supplies – dark ink pens, a red pen, lined paper or notebook for notes, a good eraser and/or white out. A few projects will require crayons or colored pencils (if you do not have any, there will be some available in class to use) and at least one will require a poster board.
- An AP Exam Review Book – This is OPTIONAL BUT STRONGLY RECOMMENDED - available at any bookstore (some libraries have these available) – there are several publishers who release review books – look over the books available (Barons, Princeton Review, etc.) and choose the one that suits your needs best. You may find this very helpful beginning in August. It should be for 2018 or newer due to the exam format change (2016-2017 versions are also acceptable but will have minor differences due to the most recent format change).
- **Note:** Organization is the key to being successful in this course. A binder/notebook with tabbed dividers is recommended.

Keep ALL handouts and returned assignments for review purposes.

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Typical Unit Schedule:

An average of 20 to 60 terms per unit (sometimes more, sometimes less) to know. Many (but not all) can be found in your textbook although you will find an encyclopedia or online reference to be immensely helpful. You must know these terms as they will appear on exams and quizzes. These are also part of your writing prep for the AP Exam. Essays, short writing, short research project or worksheet (which may include document analysis, paragraphs, a full essay), notes and objective questions are also a major part of your writing prep for the AP Exam. The more of an effort you put into these, the better you will do. Some writing assignments will be submitted to turnitin.com. Assignments with greater than 40% similarity ratings will have points deducted (similarity on individual questions as well as the assignment overall will be considered)! Unit exams and quizzes are generally multiple choice, but may include fill-in, short answer and/or essay. The format is usually announced prior to the quiz/exam but not always. Be prepared for any format.

Grading:

Your overall grade is based on a WEIGHTED PERCENT system. Points are given for each assignment and the average grade for each group of assignments is then multiplied by the percent listed below. Your weighted category averages are then added together to achieve your final grade.

Quizzes – TBA

Exams – TBA

Classwork – TBA

Homework/Terms – TBA

Note: Assignments begun in class but finished at home are considered “Classwork” for grading purposes. *Students MUST maintain a 70% or higher to continue into the second semester of the course.*

Make-Up Policy:

It is your responsibility to turn in all assignments on time AND TO SUBMIT THEM TO THE CORRECT LOCATION (in-class, Google Classroom, or Turnitin.com). If you are absent the day an assignment is due in class, you must turn it the day you return. If the assignment is to be submitted online, there are generally no extensions for brief absences. It is the responsibility of the student, not the teacher, to inquire about class work, homework, and/or tests missed in a student’s absence. If you miss a test, you will take it your first day back during class time (after school make ups may occasionally be possible but are not guaranteed). If you do not make up a test or quiz, it will be graded as a ‘0’ and may negatively affect your overall grade. You are responsible for any work/notes while you are making up an exam. Missing a review day is no excuse for not taking an exam. If you miss class due to sports or other activities, it is to your advantage to turn in assignments before you leave. All assignments will be posted on google classroom, weebly and on classroom board (when we return to in-person instruction). It is your responsibility to check google classroom, weebly and/or the classroom board. Due dates are always included.

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Extra Credit Policy:

Some tests and quizzes have a one- or two-point bonus question. There is also an extra credit assignment related to visiting a museum related to American History. See google classroom page for more information. Otherwise, my extra credit policy is “If you don’t have time to do the work, you won’t have time for the extra credit.”

Late Assignments:

You are honors students fully capable of being responsible for your own time and actions. Late work will only be able to earn HALF CREDIT unless there is an excused absence. The Dean’s Office and Attendance Office make the determination as to whether or not an absence is excused based on the nature of the absence. A phone call/email from a parent on the day of the absence helps to determine this but is not a guarantee that an absence will be classified as excused. An absence with no phone call/email is automatically considered “unexcused.” The notation entered into the PowerSchool attendance system will be used to determine if an absence is excused or not. **WORK IS DUE AT THE TIME IT IS COLLECTED IN CLASS OR AS POSTED ON GOOGLE CLASSROOM OR TURNITIN.**

General Class Rules and Information:

1. Remember to treat others as you would wish to be treated. Any disrespect shown to faculty, staff or other students will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.
2. Cheating, in any form, will result in an automatic zero and time serving detention. This includes cheating on tests or quizzes, as well as copying homework and classwork assignments. At the teacher’s discretion, cheating on homework or classwork will result in a ‘zero’ score on the assignment and either a violation or a referral. Cheating on tests or quizzes will always result in an automatic ‘zero’ score and a referral. Actions that appear to be cheating may be construed as cheating. See the Parent-Student Handbook for further information.
3. Copying another student’s work is cheating and will result in disciplinary action – both students are considered to be cheating. Homework is to be done at home and should not be worked on during class.
4. All assignments must be completed on loose-leaf paper and in DARK INK – NO PENCIL. Assignments done in pencil or torn out of a notebook will not be accepted. Most assignments may be typed, however, make sure you have enough ink and that your printer works - no extensions are given for these types of problems.
5. All homework is due at the beginning of class or it may be considered late. Work submitted online is due by the time posted on the homework board/online assignment directions and must be turned in to the correct location.
6. You must be in your assigned seat and prepared for class when the bell rings – have your notebook, textbook and other materials out and ready to go. Failure to come to class prepared (with Chromebook, notebook, pens, etc.) may result in a violation.
7. Students are to be in complete uniform at all times. This includes having your shirt tucked in, proper uniform, pants/shorts properly pulled up, etc.
8. Passes to leave the classroom are issued at the discretion of the teacher and may be refused except in the event of an emergency. Forgetting your homework, book, notebook, etc. is not considered

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an emergency. Trips to the student store, restroom, etc. should be taken care of before class or during break – not during class (medical exceptions will be made if I know about them).

9. No food is allowed in the classroom. Resealable drinks (such as bottled water) are allowed but you must clean up any spills IMMEDIATELY. If there are persistent problems with “spills,” all drinks may be banned from the classroom.
10. Additional rules may be added (by the teacher or the students) as needed during the school year. Please keep a copy of this syllabus for reference.

AP US History Class Web Pages:

To help students with their organization and study of US History (and parents to see some of what is going on in the classroom), I have constructed two web reference pages for students: Weebly and google classroom. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND that you bookmark both websites and check them often.

Google Classroom - AP US History (code: ee3su51) and Weebly (mswilliams-adamsclass.weebly.com)

- Assignments
- Homework
- Readings
- Lesson slides
- Instructions for extra credit assignment
- Planning calendar
- Class Announcements
- Syllabus
- Final exam information
- Supplemental materials – such as how to work with documents, essay writing samples and suggestions, etc. are also available on google classroom under “Materials”
- Some assignments will be submitted through google classroom as well

So, What is REALLY Expected of Me?

As you may have already figured out from the summer assignment, there is a lot to do in this class. We must cover approximately 500 years of history, learn how to analyze and interpret primary sources, learn how to take notes from both printed materials and lectures, and write analytical essays and papers – and do it all before Spring Break. This sounds like a lot, but the various assignments you will complete throughout the semester do all of the above to prepare you for the AP Exam in May. In-class lecture and lecture notes give you an overview of what happened and why it is important. Reading each chapter and completing the Chapter Objective questions continues this process and covers additional items. The Objective questions are also a way for you to check your understanding of the material. Can you answer the question easily and explain your answer in your own words or do you need to search through the text looking for the answer to copy it? If you spend a lot of time searching around for the answer, perhaps you need to spend more time reading first. Use the notes you take as you read. Reading the supplementary materials that are handed out in class/online will expose you to primary sources and document analysis worksheets and class discussions will help you to interpret them.

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DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! If you do, you will likely rush through the assignments and miss information that could be vital on the exam. Take your time and do a little of the work each night to keep everything manageable. I would recommend reading the chapters associated with each unit first (there could be pop quizzes taken directly from the reading at any point during the unit), defining and studying the terms next (or a few each day), then completing the chapter objective questions last. In addition, it is also important to remember time management, time management, TIME MANAGEMENT!

You can get an A in this class and a 5 on the exam but you need to work hard and be very organized.

Notes to Parents

Contacting the Teacher:

I encourage parent participation in a student's education and am happy to discuss your child's progress with you. If you need to contact me please email me at wwadams@laalliance.org and I will respond as quickly as possible. Please make sure you include both the first and last name of your child. Please also include a phone number where you can be reached and the best time to call (if you would like a call back as opposed to an email response).