

Advanced Placement United States History Course Syllabus

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A complete version of this syllabus can be found on my website at <https://rivercity.wusd.k12.ca.us/subsites/Gerald-OConnor/>
Google Classroom <https://classroom.google.com/> Class codes to be distributed by email

Text

AMSCO United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Exam, Newman and Schmalbach, 2016-2020 editions

Introduction & Purpose for the Course

This course is designed to provide you with the skills and knowledge necessary to critically analyze problems in US history. The program prepares you for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon you equivalent to that made by a full-year introductory college course. You will learn to assess historical materials—their relevance, reliability, and importance—and weigh evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. **You will be reading several primary source documents with each unit and learning how to interpret and evaluate them. The course provides you with frequent practice in writing analytical and interpretive essays such as document-based questions (DBQ) and thematic essays.**

The course is designed to prepare you for the Advanced Placement Exam in United States History offered in May. Many colleges and universities offer students credit or advanced placement based on qualifying scores on the AP Exam, but each college sets its own policies. I will do everything I can to prepare you for both the AP Exam and continued college coursework in the future.

Therefore, this class will be difficult and require much more from you than a typical high school course. This is a college course. Because of the comprehensive nature of the AP Exam, there will be a great deal of reading and writing and work will be required during breaks. Students contemplating taking AP US History should weigh their options very carefully before making the commitment required to complete the course.

Grading

The grading scale for the course is as follows: A=90%; B=80%; C=70%; D=60%. Unit tests in the form of the AP Exam use the AP grading scale. See my website for a sample AP Exam calculator.

Assessments

Your grade will be based on your success in daily participation (5%), homework and classwork assignments (25%) frequent short quizzes (30%), and unit and final exams (40%). **End of unit tests may include Short-Answer Questions (SAQ), a Long Essay Question, or a Document-Based Question (DBQ).**

Attendance

Attendance in this class is essential, especially in a 4x4 Block. Much of the material for success is provided through lecture, discussion, and class activity. This is not a correspondence course. Missing class can create serious problems for your success, and continued absences will require transfer to the regular high school course.

Advanced placement exam & weighted grades

The AP Exam is given in May. Registration for the exam takes place after winter break. Although **the exam is not required**, it is highly recommended and may earn college credit and/or advanced placement. Students who fail to take the College Board AP Exam or the AP equivalent exam from the instructor will not receive a weighted grade for the course; weighted grades will only be conferred to students who pass with a grade of C or higher.

Withdrawal after the course begins

Parents and students should understand that—as college-level courses—AP classes do not adhere to the curriculum or pacing of regular high school courses. Allowing students to transfer out of an AP class into a regular high school class after the second week of the course presents difficulties for the student, instructors, and the school as a whole (in maintaining adequate and balanced class sizes, for example). This is especially true with a 4x4 schedule.

Therefore, parents will not be allowed to withdraw their child from an AP class after the FIRST FIVE CLASS DAYS of the course.

Parents wishing to withdraw their child from an AP class may do so only after conferring with the AP teacher, administrator, or counselor. Students who are withdrawn from an AP class will be placed in the next lower level course or available elective. Parents and students should understand that there is no guarantee on space availability in these classes after the second week.

Final Exams

At the end of the Fall term, all students will take a final exam. At the end of the Spring term, all students who did not take the College Board AP Exam will be required to take a comprehensive exam **covering the entire course**. This comprehensive exam will take the same form as the College Board AP Exam in May. Students who take the AP Exam will be required to complete all assignments through the end of the course, and may choose to accept the grade they have going into finals week or take the Spring semester final to improve their class grade, but only with a score of 4 or 5.

Supplies

- ◆ Some sort of 8-1/2" x 11" spiral notebook
- ◆ I recommend a separate organized place for your APUSH work, a binder, folder, brief, etc.
- ◆ Pens for short-answer and essays
- ◆ #2 pencils for scantrons

Notebook— Every day, students will be expected to bring a spiral notebook for taking notes, completing assignments, taking quizzes, and writing assignments.

Assignment Packets – Assignment packets will constitute the bulk of the class and homework due at the end of the unit. Stapled packets will be comprised of handouts, worksheets, notes, and short essays and writing assignments.

Behavior Expectations

1. Be on time.
2. Bring your notebook and supplies to class every day.
3. Do your eating, drinking, and personal grooming outside this classroom.
4. TREAT EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING IN THIS CLASSROOM WITH RESPECT.

For online sessions (Google Meet or Zoom): I expect students to enter with their mics muted. Be respectful of everyone in the session, including guest speakers. If there are breakout sessions in Zoom, students should have cameras on.

Classroom Consequences:

1. First offense: warning.
2. Second offense: lost participation points.
3. Third offense: after school detention, instructor calls home.
4. Fourth offense: referral to Vice-Principal.

Note: An offense that is subject to suspension can result in an immediate referral to the Vice-Principal's office AT ANY TIME without warning or detention.

Advanced Placement United States History

COURSE READING SCHEDULE

Instructor: Mr. O'Connor

goconnor@wusd.k12.ca.us

<http://rivercity.wusd.k12.ca.us/subsites/Gerald-OConnor/>

Unit 1-2 – Exploration and Settlement of Colonial America

Periods 1 and 2 (1491-1754)

13 Days

AMSCO Ch. 1-3

Unit 3 – The Revolution and Federalist Period

Period 3 (1754-1800)

9 Days

AMSCO Ch. 4-6

Unit 4 – The Eras of Jefferson and Jackson

Period 4 (1800-1848)

9 Days

AMSCO Ch. 7-11

Unit 5 – Antebellum America, Civil War, and Reconstruction

Period 5 (1844-1877)

9 Days

AMSCO Ch. 12-15

Midterms

Fall Oct. 15-16;

Spring March 18-19

Unit 6 – Gilded Age: Closing of the West & The Industrial Age

Period 6 (1865-1898)

10 Days

AMSCO Ch. 16-19

Unit 7 – Progressivism, Boom, Bust, & World Wars

Period 7 (1890-1945)

15 Days

AMSCO Ch. 20-25

Unit 8 – Postwar America

Period 8 (1945-1980)

9 Days

AMSCO Ch. 26-29

Unit 9 – America in the Modern Era

Period 9 (1980-Present)

3 Days

AMSCO Ch. 30-31

AP Exam

Friday, May 6, 2021, 8am

Finals

December 16-17

June 1-3

Spring students taking the College Board AP US History Exam may choose to skip the course final exam.

I have read the above course outline and classroom rules. I understand that I am responsible for following the rules of this classroom as well as the policies of the school as a whole, subject to the disciplinary decisions of the instructor or administrator. I will keep this paper in my history notebook at all times.

X _____
Print Student Name **Date**

I have reviewed the course outline and classroom rules with my son / daughter.

X _____
Parent Signature **Date**