

AP United States History – 11th Grade – 2016 – 2017 School Year
Ms. Jessica Parfitt – Pittsburg High School – Room G215
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Office Hours – By appointment before or after school only, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
Class Website: <http://parfittapush.weebly.com>

Course Description: Advanced Placement United States History is a rigorous and intensive course that is meant to be the ***equivalent of an introductory freshman college course*** in American History. The scope of the course begins with the emergence of Colonial America (1400s), and continues through the end of the Cold War in the 20th Century. In this course, students will study the political, economic, social, intellectual, and cultural events that shaped American history in preparation for the Advanced Placement exam in May.

Textbook: Kennedy and Cohen. (2016). *The American Pageant, AP Edition, 16th Edition*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin. [ISBN 978-305-26845-6]

Review book: Newman, John J., and John M. Schmalbach. *United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination*. New York, N.Y: Amsco School Publications, 2014 [ISBN-13: 978-0-7891-8904-2]

Supplies: I recommend a binder, dividers (either 6 for each unit or 9 for each period of history), binder paper or notebook, and a blue or black ink pen

Grading:

Chapter Study Guides/Notes – 75 points each
Weekly/Chapter Quizzes – 100 points
Unit Tests – 200 points
DBQ – 200 points
Free Response Questions – 100 points
Flashcards – 75 points each unit
Other Work - 25 - 75 points

Reading Schedule: The most taxing component of APUSH is the reading schedule. Students are expected to do a considerable amount of reading from both the textbook and from supplementary sources (AMSCO Review Book. There will be reading assignments on a weekly basis, done outside of class while class time will focus on applying primary and secondary readings to the content and themes of this course. This will be done in a variety of ways, including analysis of Primary and Secondary sources, class discussions, writing, and other activities. The class will be covering approximately 1-2 chapters of material a week. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to study, are necessary to succeed in this class.

Course Format: The course will be a combination of lecture and seminar (class discussion) formats. Students will take notes, discuss important readings relating to the themes of United States History, as well as analyzing primary and secondary sources (i.e. speeches, photographs, maps, charts, articles, etc.) Students will be expected to read outside of class, so that the bulk of class time will be available for questions and discussion. ***Readings should be done prior to class!***

Course Expectations: Your presence in the classroom is fundamental to your success in the class. To this end, do not be late or absent, and make arrangements to avoid conflicts involving this class with appointments and other meetings. While homework assignments will vary throughout the course in terms of scope and rigor, all students are responsible for completing assignments on the assigned due date. If you are absent, you are responsible for obtaining class notes and completing any missed work. Students with excused absences may complete any missed weekly homework or classwork for full credit. Students will have the number of days they were absent to make up their missing work. **Furthermore, any assignment that has an extended due date is due on the assigned day, regardless of the reason for absence.** (For example - projects are due on their due date NO MATTER WHAT!)

Exams: Exams will mirror the AP exam, which is a combination of primary source based multiple-choice questions, short answer questions as well as document based and free response essays.

Exams are rigorous because they are intended to challenge students at the AP Exam level.

Moreover, they are designed to give students frequent experience with the types of multiple-choice questions, free-response questions, and document-based questions that appear on the AP Exam. Frequent exams also ensure that students read the textbook and supplementary readings, consistently check for understanding, and take notes that are thorough and well organized. Both the Multiple-choice and essays will be graded in the same manner as the AP exam, with the essays being graded using the AP's rubric for the Long Essay (LE) and Document Based Question (DBQ.)

Quizzes: Quizzes are based on document-based multiple choice and SAQ questions.

Homework: Homework will consist of chapter assignments and supplemental readings.

Primary Document Reading Assignments: All students will be required to analyze and reflect on primary documents (speeches, photographs, cartoons, maps, charts, works of art) in preparation for the APUSH Exam.

Classroom activities: Activities will include peer editing on practice DBQ responses and classroom discussion. Students are expected to contribute to class discussions and participate effectively in class activities. Many class sessions are seminars. In order for seminars to work, student preparation and participation is critical.

Extra Work: Extra work assignments will be provided throughout the year for those students that complete all quarter work. **If all work is turned in for a quarter** then extra work assignments can be turned in to earn up to 100 extra points each quarter. Extra work assignments can be found on the class site and in the extra work folder.

Failing Grades: Parents/guardians are contacted using many methods throughout the semester to report failing grades including school progress reports (sent home in the mail half way through each quarter), quarter report cards, and semester report cards. Email, Telephone calls, and Teleparent messages will also be used.

Presidents Quiz: By the end of the 3rd quarter, every student must take the President's Quiz and receive a 39 out of 44 in order to earn the full 100 points. If you take the quiz and pass in the 1st quarter and pass you will receive 200 points. If you take the quiz in the 2nd quarter and pass you will receive 150 points.

Late Work: Late work is not accepted in college courses. In this course, though, late work will be accepted, but it will result in a loss of all points for the given assignment. If a student wishes to turn in the work in order to be able to complete extra work for the quarter, then they will have until the unit test to turn in the missing assignment.

Tardies and Unexcused Absences: Both tardies and unexcused absences have a negative impact on your grade. If a student is absent, it is up to them to schedule any make ups for quizzes or tests, as well as, to turn in any missing work immediately following their absence. If a student knows that they are going to be absent, they should inform the teacher ahead of time to try and make any accommodations for missing work. If a student is absent for an assignment, then they will have as many days as they were absent to make up any missing work, and they will have 1 week to make up any tests or quizzes.

AP Exam: The expectation is that every student take the AP Exam on Friday, May 5. If they do not, then they will be required to take a mock exam with Ms. Parfitt for credit. The exam is the culmination of all of the hard work that the students have done all year. They should take the exam to prove to themselves that they can complete this course from start to finish. I will do everything in my power to make sure that every student feels prepared for this exam, and that the cost of the exam is not a burden.

DO NOT REMOVE THIS PORTION OF THE SYLLABUS!

I have read the syllabus and understand what is expected of my student.

Parent Signature

I have read the syllabus and understand and accept what is expected of me.

Student Signature

Student Name – Printed

Period