

AP US History (APUSH) Syllabus 2022 - 2023

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Course Description

AP United States History will resemble a freshman college introductory course to American history. It will be a challenging experience and students should expect the workload to be comparable to what college demands. As it is taught at a high school, this course meets five days a week. It is assumed that students have a high level of interest and competence in history prior to beginning this course. AP United States History includes components of political, social, economic, cultural, diplomatic, and intellectual history. The focus will be on providing students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. History.

The course will also provide multiple mechanisms to make connections from the past to the present as well as contemplating the experiences of the varied and diverse perspectives of the people in the United States. The application of those skills will culminate with the AP United States History examination in May. Students will work to improve reading and writing skills through nightly reading assignments and consistent writing assignments. Students will be expected to participate daily in class discussions of assigned readings. The skills students enhance during this course will assist them during their college years and in lifelong learning.

Ultimately, students are preparing to take the AP United States History Exam given each year in May. By developing the above-mentioned skills, students will prepare for the four components of the Exam. On a regular basis, students will experience Multiple-Choice exams, Short Answer Questions, Document Based Questions and Long Essay Questions.

As students study and prepare for the AP U.S. History Exam, they will cover various themes during the discussions of our nation's history. As these themes are also highly recommended by the College Board, the student's ultimate goal is to look at a well-rounded and developed view of our past. These themes include the following:

1. American and National Identity
2. Work, Exchange, and Technology
3. Geography and Environment
4. Migration and Settlement
5. Politics and Power
6. America in the World
7. American and Regional Cultures
8. Social Structures

It is only by incorporating these concepts into our studies can we truly appreciate our own history. As most students have already taken at least one American history course, basic factual knowledge is assumed. We will work toward perfecting the "art" of history – interpretation of sources, analysis of conflicting viewpoints, and persuasive writing.

Goals of Course

This course will:

- Provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge to deal with the problems and situations of American History presented on the AP U.S. History exam.

- Prepare students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those of full-year introductory college courses.
- Require exposure to standard college textbooks, works dealing with diplomatic and economic history, documentary histories, and a variety of specialized period supplementary works that place emphasis on political history, social history, economic history, and/or diplomatic history.
- Test for factual knowledge and the ability to analyze, compare, contrast, and draw valid conclusions based on evidence.
- Assess historical documents (their relevance to a given interpretation problem, their reliability, and their importance) and to weigh evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship.
- Require students to interpret documents, maps, charts, graphs, statistical tables, pictures, private journals, correspondence for content, meaning, and usefulness.

Topics of Study

The list below indicates a general plan for the course regarding time and material in a typical school year.

Period 1: 1491-1607 (4-6% of AP Exam) → approximately 8 class periods

Period 2: 1607-1754 (6-8% of AP Exam) → approximately 14 class periods

Period 3: 1754-1800 (10-17% of AP Exam) → approximately 17 class periods

Period 4: 1800-1848 (10-17% of AP Exam) → approximately 17 class periods

Period 5: 1848-1877 (10-17% of AP Exam) → approximately 17 class periods

Period 6: 1865-1898 (10-17% of AP Exam) → approximately 18 class periods

Period 7: 1890-1945 (10-17% of AP Exam) → approximately 21 class periods

Period 8: 1945-1980 (10-17% of AP Exam) → approximately 20 class periods

Period 9: 1980-Present (4-6% of AP Exam) → approximately 8 class periods

After the exam, the class will complete projects and/or prepare for the high school final exam given at the end of May- beginning of June.

Text: Primary (Print + Digital)

Newman, John J. and Schmalbach, John M. *United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination*, Perfection Learning Corporation (2022) (4th Edition)

Text: Supplemental*

Lappsanky-Werner, Emma, Levy, Peter, Roberts, Randy, and Taylor, Alan. *United States History*. Pearson/Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey/Boston, Massachusetts (2008)

*-Subject to change as instructor may find additional digital texts throughout the course to be assigned or specific readings and review(s).

Suggested Supplements- Study Aids and Prep Books

AP Exam review books can be a valuable supplement to use during the course of the class, particularly when studying for unit tests and, of course, when studying for the AP U.S. History exam. These exam review prep books can be purchased online (Amazon, etc.) or at major retailers like Barnes and Noble. Be sure to purchase the most up-to-date version. Just know, however, it is not required to purchase this text for this class.

**PLEASE KNOW THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO WELL
IN CLASS WITHOUT HAVING A STUDY AID.**

* Additional primary sources, articles and handouts will be used throughout the year as appropriate.

Materials

You must have the following on a daily basis:

- Laptop, fully charged
- 3 ring binder: for notes/handouts
- College ruled notebook (perforated, so it could be ripped out and submitted) or loose leaf paper in a binder
- Writing utensils (pencil or blue/black ink only)
- Highlighters
- Other appropriate classroom materials, such as coloring utensils, glue sticks, scissors, etc.
- COVID-19 materials (Mask, Hand Sanitizer, Wipes)

Class Participation

History is best understood when you practice it and discuss it. Therefore, it is essential that you ask questions, enter into debate/discussion, and vocally challenge another's point of view (and sometimes your own). This will be essential during class activities and discussions. Proper participation also includes arrival to class on time, preparation, and focus during class.

Classwork

Should you miss an assignment, you will be required to complete that assignment, or one comparable to the original. You should also be checking Canvas when you are absent. Staying on top of classwork is essential to success in this course. The deadline to make up work is one week from the initial date of the assignment.

Homework

Every student should expect to do homework equivalent to the amount of time in class. This includes reading, taking notes, creating presentations, completing study guides or online activities. Due to the sheer volume of information we are going to cover, there will be lots of reading assigned. Even when no written homework is assigned, you are responsible for reviewing any previous work (notes, handouts, etc.).

Timed Writing

Like tests, you will have essays in each unit. These include the aforementioned Short Answer Questions (SAQs), Document Based Questions (DBQs) and Long Essay Questions (LEQs). Rubrics for grading the essays will follow AP standards and will be provided to students in order to help them understand the grading process and allow for them to use while constructing their responses.

Tests and Quizzes

Every unit, you will be given a test to make sure you are keeping up on material. Tests will be designed to make sure you master a variety of skills and concepts. If you miss a test, you will be expected to take the test upon your return to school. The deadline to make up a test is one week from the initial date of the test.

Quizzes, used more frequently, are at teacher's discretion and can be planned or unplanned ("pop") to check student understanding of the assigned readings and materials. Quizzes will be shorter in length than that of tests and will, in turn, have an individual worth of less than said tests. It is the task of the student to keep up on assigned readings and tasks both in class and on Canvas in order to be prepared for quizzes given.

Late Work

Late work will be entered as a "zero" in the grade book and will be noted as late until submission by the student. Students will only have **five** days to submit late work, with a late-point deduction accrued. After the five days, the

assignment will no longer be accepted. The only exception to this is when a student is absent. District make-up work policies apply for student absences. Work that was assigned prior to an absence is due upon a student's return. There are standing assignments that are generally expected each day. These assignments will also be provided digitally; thus, being absent on a given day does not always excuse a student from having an assignment done. They must be provided to the instructor upon a student's return.

Grading Policy

All assignments in this course will be evaluated on a point value system. The marking period grade will be determined by the total number of points earned divided by the number of points possible. Each marking period grade will be included as part of the final course grade.

Final Exam

An AP equivalent final exam or project will be conducted in late-May/early-June to be included as part of the final course grade. *This is subject to change based on school policy on final exams.*

AP Exam

All students are expected to take the AP United States History Exam on **Friday, May 5, 2023 at 8:00 am**. This whole course prepares you for that experience and the exam is an integral part of the course. The AP Exam is 3 hours and 15 minutes long. It includes a 55-minute multiple-choice questions (MCQ) consisting of 55 questions, a 40-minute short answer section containing 3 questions (SAQ), and a 100-minute free-response section consisting of 2 questions; one being a document-based question (DBQ) and one being a long essay question (LEQ). Colleges award college credit for qualifying scores of "3 or higher" on the exam. AP Exam scores are usually available later on in the summer. More details and exam practice can be found at College Board's website.

General Procedures and Policies

1. Be present and on time; this means being in your assigned seat when the tardy bell rings.
2. Have materials ready as soon as you are seated. Have your homework ready to turn in (including stapled, if necessary) and have your notebook ready on your desk.
3. No food or drink is permitted in the classroom. This includes candy and chips. Water is acceptable.
4. All bags and purses must be left on the floor.
5. Electronic devices are permissible at appropriate times and when used appropriately. Students who consistently use an electronic device at inappropriate times are subject to a discipline referral.
6. Having an electronic device visible at any time during an assessment is automatically considered cheating and thus a zero will be awarded.
7. Show respect to others at all times. This includes letting others speak without being interrupted (including teachers) and being respectful of differences in opinion.

Attendance

It cannot be stressed enough that regular class attendance is essential to AP students. Missing one class can leave one in major disarray, particularly when scheduled with just 55-60 minute classes. If you are aware of a future absence (field trip, college visit, physician appointment, etc.) please notify the teacher in advance to discuss alternate assignments.

Technology

Your use of your personal device will be essential to this course. Make sure you have it with you each day, fully charged.

Canvas

The course Canvas page will house assignments, assigned readings, additional resources, etc. throughout the course of the year. It will be essential for students to engage actively with the course Canvas page to make sure they are staying up-to-date with all assigned tasks, grades, and so on. Additional details on Canvas will be shared as the course goes on.

It is also highly suggested that students join the Western Student Success Canvas page as it is the school-wide student information center that focuses on counseling, career development, and service learning, as well as other school-related topics and issues. You can also inbox general school questions when you do not know who to ask.

AP Classroom

Students will be expected to access AP Classroom ASAP in order to gain access to the activities, videos, practices, and reviews, along with other resources, that will be provided for the course. This will be used frequently both in and out of class and can serve as a great resource for both content comprehension and skill building for the AP exam in May.

Study Techniques

The reading load throughout the course is considerable. In order to cover the maximum amount of material with the least amount of stress, sharing is definitely encouraged. While each student is expected to read ALL text material, outlining discussion questions and supplemental readings may be shared with your group. **(Take care, however, to ensure that any work submitted is clearly your own.)** You are responsible for understanding all of this material for testing. The amount of time required for homework in this class will vary with your reading speed. Assignments vary in length. Look at your weekly assignments and plan for long assignments and supplemental readings. Time management is an essential skill for this class, and you must take the responsibility for budgeting your time. As you become accustomed to course format and texts, things will fall into place and become easier. It is important to not get discouraged!

Cheating

I expect honest, independent work from all students at all times. **Any** academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment and subsequent submission to administration and call home to parent/guardian.

Extra Help

Extra help is available if you feel you need it. However, it is your responsibility to come to me and set up an appointment or time to meet that works best for both you and I. Please come prepared with specific issues you want to work on.

Questions

There is no such thing as a stupid question. If you do not understand something or are unsure of something, ask. Remember, you are responsible for your own education.

APUSH is an excellent way to challenge yourself. I know you will find this experience to be well worth it if you put in the appropriate time and effort needed to be successful. If you come each day with a positive attitude and a desire to learn, this will be a great semester. I am very excited to begin and I look forward to being your teacher for this course!

*** Syllabus Acknowledgement and Agreement ***

After reading the syllabus, sign below along with your parent/guardian. Submit this form once completed to your instructor for documentation.

I have read and understand the preceding APUSH syllabus.

Student's name (print) _____

Signature of Student _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian name (print) _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

Additional questions? Submit below along with an email address in order to receive a response. Thank you.
