



AP UNITED STATES HISTORY, Grade 11

INSTRUCTOR: Mr. Heskett

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2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Conference Period: 4st/5th

COURSE SYLLABUS

AP U.S. History is a challenging course that is meant to be the equivalent of a freshman college course and can earn students college credit. It is a two-semester survey of American history from the age of exploration and discovery to the present which includes political institutions, social and cultural developments, diplomacy, and economic trends in U.S. history. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, interpretation of original documents, and historiography.

Course Objectives — Students will:

- master a broad body of historical knowledge
- demonstrate an understanding of historical chronology
- use historical data to support an argument or position
- interpret and apply data from original documents, including cartoons, graphs, maps, letters, etc.
- effectively use analytical skills of evaluation, cause and effect, compare and contrast
- work effectively with others to produce products and solve problems
- prepare for and successfully pass the Advanced Placement Exam

One of the principal objectives is to sharpen students' thinking skills. Students must be able to analyze evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Reading assignments and lectures by themselves do not insure improvement of critical thinking skills. Many students read and listen passively, simply absorbing information. They do not reliably challenge the thinking of the writers they are reading - or of the teachers they are listening to. Nor do they reliably use the material they read to challenge their own ideas. During the course of this class we will focus a great deal of attention on learning how to analyze and interpret a wide variety of primary sources, reflect carefully on all the different resources used in our study, in order to sharpen thinking skills and analytical processes.

Major Themes of the Course

Themes included in this course include the following areas:

American and National Identity
Politics and Power
Work, Exchange and Technology
America in the World

Culture and Society
Migration and Settlement
Geography and the Environment

Course Materials, Texts and Readings:

Issued- America's History – Henretta, Hinderaker, Edwards, Self. Revised 8th Edition. 2014. Bedford St. Martin's
This is a digital book. You will be expected to download it to your iPad or personal device.

Supplements provided by teacher-

In addition, the course includes analysis and interpretation of a wide variety of primary sources, such as documentary material, maps, statistical tables, works of art, and pictorial and graphic materials. Additional supplemental readings are listed for each unit.

Certifications: Since this is an academics course, there are no Certifications available for students to obtain.

Class Format: Class will be a combination of lecture, group work, coverage of discussion questions, and answering student questions. Periodically, student essays, reports, or presentations will be required. All essays will be scored according to the AP rubric.

Tests: Tests will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. It is the student's responsibility to approach the teacher regarding a missed test. Test make-ups will only occur after school. Students will be allowed to retake tests (not quizzes) before or after school only within one (1) week of the original test being given back. To be eligible to retake the test, the student must correct the original test, including page numbers of where the information is in the text and justification for why the answer is correct. Essays and projects are not eligible for retakes.

District/FHS Policy regarding Test Retakes-Minimum Requirements:

- Teachers will provide students the opportunity to be successful. In the event students fail to exhibit proficiency on the major assessment or tests, they will be encouraged to participate in the re-teaching/retesting process designed and determined by the teacher.
- Students will be allowed to demonstrate proficiency of learning objectives by means of a retest for a maximum of 70% of the original score possible.
- Students will have to make arrangements with the teacher to retake or redo a major test/assessment. Retakes will be done before or after school within one (1) week of the test being graded. All retakes must be completed prior to the end of each six week grading period. R
- Students must attend at least 1 tutorial prior to retakes.
- Mid term or final exams are not to be included in the retake/retest process.

Essays: Training students to handle the free-response section of the AP Exam in May provides the focus for the writing component of the course. Students are required, early in the year; to begin writing both Document Based Questions (DBQ) and other focused analytical and interpretive essays. Much attention is given to this process. Entire periods are devoted to the teaching, writing, and return of graded essays. This attention is vital considering the writing portion of the AP exam is 60% of the total score.

Grading: The grading scale is as follows: A=90%; B=80%; C=70%

Daily grades (40%): All class work, outside readings, practice writings, and cooperative group assignments, as well as quizzes.

Unit Tests/Formal Essays/Research projects (60%)

Final Exam (20% of overall grade to be figured in at end of semester)

UIL Eligibility requires that students in AP classes maintain a 60% or higher.

Tutoring: 2:40-3:00

Students are also welcome to email me with questions as needed. I will do my best to respond in a timely matter.

Attendance: Academic success begins in the classroom. Class time cannot be duplicated at home with worksheets. It is imperative that students be present every day. Students who are absent miss valuable instruction and have a difficult time keeping up with the assignments.

School related absences are excused, and students are counted present in class. Students **MUST** notify teachers in advance of an absence.

***Excessive tardies may result in an alternative placement.** Five tardies or more within a 6-month period may result in truancy charges being filed with the juvenile courts. (TEC 25.095)

Assignment Make-up/Late Work Policy:

Students must realize the importance of meeting due dates. They should develop the habit of using the calendar to organize their time and assignments so that work is completed on time. If an assignment is not turned in on time, the student be assessed a penalty of 15 points per day late for 2 days. After that, a 0 will be given. Also, please make sure your name is on your paper. If I don't know who to give credit to, you will not get credit.

If a student returns to school with an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to find out what work was missed and complete the work in a timely fashion. For instance: two days of class absences means two extra days to complete the work. Work will not be accepted otherwise.

Students with excused absences will have the total number of days associated with the absence from school plus one class day to turn in make-up work. Parents may call on the second day of an absence to request make-up work. Please allow 24 hours before picking up make-up assignments. **It is the student's responsibility to obtain make-up work!**

A student who is absent from school for any reason other than those reasons or provisions listed under "Attendance" will be considered unexcused. Absences for personal business and private lessons are unexcused. Work may be made-up with a **maximum grade possible being a 70.**

Cheating/Plagiarism Policy: Cheating or plagiarism will result in a "0" on the assignment or test, in addition to the school's discipline policy and procedures. This includes a discipline referral to your AP and notification to National Honor Society (if you are a member). Also remember that a discipline referral will remove your eligibility for ALL exemptions.

Academic dishonesty—cheating or plagiarism—is not acceptable. Cheating includes the copying of another student's work—homework, class work, test answers, etc.—as one's own or using answer keys or anything of the sort. Plagiarism is the use of another person's original ideas or writing without giving credit to the true author. A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to loss of credit for the work in question, as well as disciplinary penalties, according to the Student Code of Conduct. Pg. 38

Lecture Notes/PowerPoints: Most lecture notes and PowerPoints are available on my iTunes U Course after they have been discussed in class. Students are encouraged to use these when reviewing their notes.

The Key to Success: The most important grading factor in this class is consistent effort and improvement. Do not be discouraged if your grades seem low in the first six weeks. If you knew the material already, you wouldn't need the course. Effort and improvement are weighed heavily in grading. What you will learn in terms of writing, thinking, and study skills will be worth the effort!

Specific Class Rules and Information: ***Students are expected to abide by school rules. In addition, the following classroom rules will apply at all times.***

- *BE PUNCTUAL - Be in your seat when the bell rings.
- *BE PREPARED - Bring pens, pencils, binder and assignments to class.
- *BE COURTEOUS - Treat classmates and teachers respectfully.
- *BE ACTIVE - Listen attentively and participate in class activities. Do not waste time.
- *BE DEDICATED - Try your best on all assignments.

Cell Phones

- Cell phones are **not seen** ☒ **out of site!** This means in all FHS classes, no cell phones will be out
- Discipline
- 1st offense ☒ warning and parent contact
- 2nd offense ☒ teacher hold it for class period and parent contact
- 3rd offense and beyond - teacher take up and turn phone into AP. Student pays \$15 fine. AP contact parent
- Student forgets iPad or laptop, they **cannot** use phone instead
- Each teacher will have 4 laptops ☒ students can check out for class period
- 1st time to forget their laptop and have to borrow one ☒ warning
- 2nd time to forget ☒ parent contact
- 3rd time and beyond to forget ☒ referral

Google Classroom: I will maintain course that contains our class calendar, assignments, and other useful information. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check the calendar and course to see what you have missed, and also see me in class to obtain assignments and instructions. The course code is **TBA**

NUMBER OF GRADES EACH SIX WEEKS

- Regular Classes: 8 grades (minimum)
- Pre-AP/AP Classes: 8 grades (minimum)
- All Classes: 2 grades minimum per each grading category

SEMESTER GRADES

- Semester grades are computed by averaging the numerical grades recorded for each of the three six week reporting periods and the course semester exam.
- All courses
 - First Six Weeks = 26% Second Six Weeks = 27% Third Six Weeks = 27%

- Semester Exam = 20%
- Course credit is awarded with a grade of 70 or higher. If a student fails either semester of any MISD yearlong course and passes the opposite semester with a high enough grade for an overall average of 70 for the full course, a full credit will be granted. In this situation, for averaging to occur, the courses must have been taken during the same school year and in consecutive semesters.

POSTING STUDENT WORK

Student grades will be posted in Skyward parent portal within five business days for daily grades and major grades. Special consideration is given to major projects, including lengthy writing assignments.

Supplies:

Required:

Box of Kleenex (to be turned in)
#2 pencils
Blue or black pens
highlighters
College Rule Paper
Note cards
2 spirals

Optional:

White-out (if you use it)
Map pencils/markers

Welcome to APUSH!

Supplies:

Required:

Box of Kleenex (to be turned in)
#2 pencils
Blue or black pens
highlighters
2-3 inch binder
dividers
College Rule Paper

Optional:

White-out (if you use it)
Map pencils/markers

Major Dates of first 6 weeks: Unit 1 and 2 test: Sept 6/7

Unit 3 test: Sept 23
