Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH)

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2019-2020 Syllabus

Class Canvas site: https://apsva.instructure.com/courses/37868

**What is AP U.S. History?**

AP U.S. History (“APUSH”) is a fast-paced, college-level survey history course, beginning with the colonial period and ending with the modern era. The course is designed for students who want to challenge themselves through a more rigorous, in-depth look at American history using the lens of multiple perspectives and experiences. Over the course of the school year, students will study the foundations and development of the U.S. and how it shapes present political, economic, and diplomatic issues. Key social, cultural, and intellectual events and movements that have shaped the world will also be explored. Students will spend time not just reading about the past, but investigating, analyzing, and reflecting upon it in order to develop a thorough and thoughtful knowledge of American heritage and make predictions for the future.

In this course, the teacher will support students in developing the skills and traits of a historian, including: chronological reasoning (historical causation, patterns, and periodization; comparison and contextualization), crafting historical arguments from appropriate, historical evidence, and historical interpretation and synthesis, in which students will express a deep understanding of United States history through written and oral expression.

These skills necessitate the effective use of analysis of primary and secondary source materials. This includes statistics, graphic evidence, and written documents/text; successful note-taking, clear and precise written and oral expression, and the ability to reach conclusions through weighing factual evidence. Classwork and homework will challenge students to read and analyze sometimes difficult works, as this course is intended to prepare students for university as well as the Virginia end-of-course assessment and Advanced Placement (AP) United States History examination in May 2020.

**Student Expectations:**

1. Be respectful. (of peers, teachers and yourself)
2. Do your work.
3. Be present in class. (participating in class discussions, sharing your opinion and ideas respectfully)
4. Be proactive. (communicating needs to Ms. Robbins and planning ahead)

“*We take pride in our work and celebrate our accomplishments.*”

(portion of Washington-Liberty Vision statement)

**What should I bring to class?**

*Each day, students MUST bring the following, unless otherwise posted:*

* School-issued laptop, charged
* Neatly kept large (2”) 3-ring binder for this class only
* College-ruled notebook paper, pencil(s), pens, highlighter, and eraser
* Assigned homework/readings/etc.
* Agenda (assignment book)

**What materials will be used in this course?**

Textbook:

Henretta, James A. et al. *America’s History*. 8th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2014.

Source Readers:

Henretta, James A. et al. *Documents to Accompany America’s History*. Vol. 1-2. 7th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2008.

Stacy, Jason and Stephen Heller. *Documenting United States History: Themes, Concepts and Skills for the AP Course.* Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2016.

Historiography Readers:

Couvares, Francis G. et al. *Interpretations of American History: Patterns and Perspectives*. Vol. 1-2. 8th ed. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2008.

Madaras, Larry and James M. SoRelle. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in United States History*. 15th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2013.

Supplementary materials, not limited to but including items from:

*A Biography of America*. Annenberg Media: Produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting: http://www.learner.org/biographyofamerica

Brinkley, Alan. *The Unfinished Nation: A Concise History of the American People*, 7th edition. McGraw-Hill, 2013.

Founding documents: Articles of Confederation, Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution

Newspaper articles from *The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Economist, etc.*

*You also may wish to purchase a supplemental AP US History review book from a local bookstore or online. There are a number of these on the market. I suggest that you look through several and select one that you are most comfortable with.*

**How can I better participate in class?**

AP US History is designed by the College Board to be a very rigorous academic course. You should expect to devote about three to four hours a week to work *outside of class*. Some students find that they need to spend more time, so plan your schedules accordingly. I encourage you to come in and discuss your work, and to form study groups to work, discuss the content, and review for tests. The amount of daily reading and related assignments will be consistent throughout the year. However, you will probably need to adjust to the workload during the first few weeks of school. You may find this particularly true if this is your first AP class. Sharing this experience with a study group will, most likely, make the adjustment period easier.

**READING ASSIGNMENTS**

*VERY IMPORTANT*: At the beginning of each unit, you will receive a reading schedule and study/reading guide, which will serve as the majority of homework for this course. Reading assignments should be read in a timely manner and completed by the due date. We will have many class activities that will require you to have completed the reading and we will DISCUSS the content of the readings EVERY CLASS MEETING.

* Primary and secondary readings with accompanying questions will also be assigned as in- and out of class activities.
* Reading quizzes (covering both the text and primary document readings) will be given periodically.
* Not all of the information from the text will be covered in class, nor will all class information be covered in the text. *The student is responsible for BOTH.*

**Internet & Media Policies**

In order to take advantage of all of the resources and tools available to us, we will be relying on computer use and access to the internet. Certain resources will only be available online, and several projects and activities will require use of computers outside of class. As all students have been issued computers by the school, it is the STUDENT’S responsibility to ensure they have access to their fully charged devices during class.

If students do not have internet access at home, there are options! WiFi is available at school which can be accessed before and after school, during Generals’ Period, and during lunch. If you are having difficulty using or finding access to computers or the internet, please see your teacher immediately!

Videos/clips shown in class will have a PG-13 rating or less and have a specific instructional purpose. Videos with an “R” rating will require parent permission.

**How is the class structured?**

You can expect to be HIGHLY involved in each class meeting. Our primary form of interacting and digesting material will be through class discussions, lectures, and small group activities. It is CRUCIAL that you complete all assigned readings prior to class. Our studies will be organized around these themes:

* American and National Identity (NAT)
* Politics and Power (POL)
* Work, Exchange, and Technology (WXT)
* Culture and Society (CUL)
* Migration and Settlement (MIG)
* Geography and the Environment (GEO)
* America in the World (WOR)

While our studies will progress chronologically, our discussions will bridge time periods as we explore the similarities and differences within and between historical events, people, and eras. Our emphasis will be on understanding the major changes over time.

Following the AP U.S. History exam and state standardized test in May 2020, students will complete an individual or group project that will incorporate the specific skills learned over the course of the year, including textual analysis, oral and written expression, and/or presenting evidence for debate.

**How will I be graded?**

*The only way to fail this course is not completing the required work or failing to follow directions.***In order to be successful in this class, it is vital that you are present both mentally and physically EVERY DAY.** It is NOT possible to be successful in this class or on the AP Exam by only reading the textbook.You can earn an A, but it is up to you to choose if you wish to do the hard work and effort that an A requires!

*Student grades reflect student achievement and not student behavior.* Students will be responsible for the successful completion of assignments designed to prepare them for the AP exam. All tests will follow prescribed College Board guidelines to provide the best preparation possible. Tests will generally combine objective (multiple choice) and essay questions, including information from the textbook, class assignments, and lectures. In addition, we will be doing a great number of discussions, simulations, computer-based projects, and group work in this course.

If there is an issue that interferes with your ability to attend class, please talk with me sooner than later. Coming to me the day the assignment is due, however, is too late. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO SEEK OUT AND COMPLETE ANY MISSED ASSIGNMENTS.

*As a college-level course, students are expected to perform at or above a “C” at all times.* Grades below a 70% are considered unsatisfactory, even though students will be earning extra quality points when they complete the course and sit for the AP Examination.

**Students sitting for the AP exam and Virginia SOL will be exempt from final examinations for this course.** Arlington Public Schools (APS) pays for the examination fees for all AP courses.  Any student who registers for an AP course but does not take the corresponding exam, will be required to reimburse APS for their examination fee(s).  The cost of each exam is established by the College Board. Failure to take the AP exam, for any reason, will also result in the student’s loss of the transcript quality point and they will be required to take a final exam on the date specified on the WLHS calendar. If this happens, the final course grade will be an average of the four quarter grades and the final exam grade.

**Report cards** are issued four times a year. An **interim** progress report is issued to all students in the middle of each grading period at approximately four weeks. An advisoryreport form, used to indicate unsatisfactory performance, may be sent to parents between interims and report cards.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Grade*** | ***Percentages*** | ***Quality Points*** | ***AP/IB Quality Points*** |
| A | 90-100 | 4.0 | 5.0 |
| B+ | 87-89 | 3.5 | 4.5 |
| B | 80-86 | 3.0 | 4.0 |
| C+ | 77-79 | 2.5 | 3.5 |
| C | 70-76 | 2.0 | 3.0 |
| D+ | 67-69 | 1.5 | 2.5 |
| D | 60-66 | 1.0 | 2.0 |
| E | 0-59 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

We will be using a percentage system to calculate grades each quarter. The number of assignments per nine-week quarter will vary.

Homework: 15%

Tests/Quizzes: 40%

Projects/Essays: 25%

Classwork Assignments: 20%

To compute your final grade for the course, each quarter's letter grade (on a 4.0 scale) will be averaged together. *Quarter grades of .5 or higher will be rounded up* (i.e., 89.5=90.0).

Students are expected to act honorably in class (and in school) at all times: *“On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received information on this assignment.”*

There is a complete description of Washington-Liberty’s Honor Code and policies available in the Student Handbook and through the Counseling department. This means that students do not *give* or *receive* unauthorized assistance on any assignment.  The penalty for cheating will be a zero on the assignment.  The penalty for plagiarism (a specific form of cheating) will be a zero on the assignment.

**What if I miss a class?**

* *Chronic absences and tardies will be subject to the school’s attendance and disciplinary policy, found in the Student Handbook.*
* If you miss a day, please check Canvas under the “Miss Class” page for any missed assignments or contact me through e-mail.
* I am available during General’s Period (with a pass) and by appointment.
* If there is an emergency closing, please check Canvas for any important announcements.

**All work will be turned in on time**. Those with an official excused absence or prior extension will have it completed by the next class meeting or previously agreed upon date. All other related items on absences (excused and unexcused) will follow the procedures laid out in the W-L Student Handbook. Students may receive 60% for unexcused missing/late work turned in up to one class late. A zero will be recorded for any work not completed or turned in more than two class periods late. Zeros do add up to a significantly impaired grade. Major papers and projects will lose 10% per DAY after the assigned due date, up to 50%. *Students are responsible for the work missed even if the absence is excused.*

**What else is expected of me?**

This is an advanced course, which means you are responsible for your actions and work. Please follow all rules of the classroom. High school is a time of great change and responsibility. The faculty at W-L and I want you to succeed and make good choices regarding your academics and your personal life.

I can usually be found in room 3008 before and after school, and during Generals Period every day. Due to faculty meetings, do not plan to stay after on Wednesdays. In all cases, students should try to let me know when they are coming so we can plan accordingly. Please come see me with comments, concerns, or to say hello.  *Your success is in your hands!*

**APUSH Syllabus, Ms. Robbins, 2019-20**

Your first homework assignment is to share this with your parents or guardians. Please sign /date this page and turn it in at the beginning of the NEXT CLASS. Keep the syllabus in your binder as a reference.

Student Name (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s) (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best parent contact email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best parent contact phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Any questions or concerns?