

AP US History Course Syllabus



Course Overview:

Welcome to AP US History. You are about to set off on a challenging and exciting year of study. AP US History is a rigorous course that is the equivalent of a freshman college course and can earn high school students college credit. The course is a two-semester survey of American history from the age of exploration and discovery up to the present. This is a demanding course, requiring diligence, thoroughness, and a commitment to excellence. Nonetheless, I hope you enjoy this class and find it rewarding. I challenge all of you to do your best. **What you get out of this course truly depends upon the effort you make.** If you cut corners, you will struggle to pass the AP test in May.

Course Objectives:

1. Understand America's present by examining our past.
2. Develop critical thinking and writing skills.
3. Analyze various interpretations of American history.
4. Develop valuable study skills and habits that will be beneficial in college.
5. Earn a passing grade (3) or higher on that AP exam next May.

Course Periods:

1. 1491-1607
2. 1607-1754
3. 1754-1800
4. 1800-1848
5. 1844-1877
6. 1865-1898
7. 1890-1945
8. 1945-1980
9. 1980-Present



Course Organization:

Unit binder sheets will be provided. Students will be responsible for weekly reading assignments that will include outlining book chapters and completing additional class readings. **All course chapter notes are to be completed in pen, not typed.** Each unit will be taught using a variety of activities including student discussion, lecture, and group activities.

You must read the book carefully to succeed. There is only enough time in class to emphasize the most important points in a given chapter/unit. **Students, however, are still expected to know the material in the text NOT reviewed in class.** Anything assigned may appear on a quiz or test. Quizzes and tests will be a combination of multiple-choice, matching, and short answer questions. Always bring your notes to the class as you can use them on the reading quizzes.

Make-Up Work:

Make up work will be accepted using the following policy:

1. If you are unable to attend class you will be allowed the number of days per absence to turn in make-up work assigned during the time of your absence.
2. If you are absent from class because of some unforeseeable circumstance, you have the option of requesting special arrangements or new due dates. Please let me know.

Late Homework:

Late work will be accepted using the following policy:

1. Any late assignment can be turned in for FULL CREDIT as long as it is turned in by the end of the time period it was assigned in.
2. 50% off for any late assignment turned in after the time period it was assigned in has ended.

Technology Policy:

I expect that you come to class every day with a full charged chromebook. We will frequently use our chromebooks for projects and assessments. When taking assessments, cell phones and listening to music will not be allowed. Violation of this policy will result in you receiving a zero for the assessment. Listening to music via cell phones is permitted during designated work time. Cell phones must be put away during all other times. Repeated violations of listening to music or playing video games via your cell phone will result in you receiving a zero on your next participation check.

Plagiarism/Cheating:

Students are expected to do their **own** work and not share their work with other students. If you plagiarize, you automatically receive a zero (**along with the person who let you copy**), and a phone call home. School policy on plagiarism will be followed with the Deans when necessary.

Course Supplies:

Every student is required to purchase a 3 inch minimum hardcover binder, a folder insert, and 100 pages of college-rule paper specifically for this class. Students will store the majority of their work in this binder. You will be allowed to use your chapter notes on reading quizzes and your binder inserts on chapter tests.

Course Grading:

Students taking AP US History will receive a weighted grade.

The following grading scale will be used:

A	100-90%
B	89-80%
C	79-70%
D	69-60%
F	59- 0%

Your grade is broken down into three categories:

Assessments-Period Tests, LEQ's, DBQ's, Short Answer Questions: 60%

Homework Assignments: 20%

Participation (on-task behavior, attendance, promptness, positive attitude): 20%

Attendance:

Attendance is a must and is factored into your class participation grade. Much of the material is provided through lecture and classroom discussions, as well as in class assignments and/or projects. **If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get the appropriate material and complete it.** On the white board when you enter the room, you will see a wall calendar with the day by day lesson and any assignments. I will also provide a weekly calendar at the start of each week to let you know our schedule, as well as any assignments. I also intend to post most lessons and assignments on google classroom in case you are absent.

AP Exam:

The AP US History exam will be given during the first two weeks in May. Registration for the exam takes place in October and at your own expense. Last year's cost for the exam was \$100. Although the exam is not required, it is highly recommended and may earn you college credit. Students earning a passing score (3 or better on a scale 1-5) may receive college credit for this class. Preparation for the AP test is important and students are expected to work hard and make a commitment to do college level work.

Course Texts (those provided will have **):

Kennedy, David, and Lizabeth Cohen. *The American Pageant: A History of the American People.* (**), 16th Ed. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2015. Print.

Lockwood, Alan and David Harris. *Reasoning with Democratic Values, Volumes 1 and 2.* New York: Teachers College Press, 1985.

Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States, 1492-present.* New York: Perennial Classics, 2003. Print.

Schweikart, Larry. *A Patriot's History of the US: From Columbus's Great Discovery to the War on Terror.* New York: Sentinel, 2004.

Course Movie Permission Form:

I have selected a variety of short video clips to show in class (depending if they are available online). Historical films present students with excellent opportunities to visually comprehend significant events. The list of films I intend to show clips from include: *500 Nations, Amistad, Far and Away, Glory, Forest Gump, Last of the Mohicans, PBS: Lewis and Clark Expedition, All Quiet on the Western Front, Gangs of New York, Platoon, Saving Private Ryan, The Godfather(II), The Alamo, PBS: Eyes on the Prize, PBS Citizen King, Malcolm X documentary, PBS: City of the Century-Chicago, Dear America: Letters from the Vietnam War, Battle for Marjah, Argo, Black Hawk Down and Selma.* I also intend to show clips from various PBS and History Channel documentaries. With all the videos I show in class, I will **cut-out** graphic violence, foul language, and/or any other unnecessary scenes.

Course Signature Form and Contact Information:

My students have been informed about the course objectives, reading requirements, homework policies, grading, attendance, AP exam, and movie permission form, but I would appreciate it if you would review the requirements with your child, and then sign and return the form below. If you have any concerns, ideas, or information that you think might make our classroom a better learning environment for your child, please contact me.

Sincerely,

John Chisholm
AP US History Teacher
Email (preferred): jchisholm@d94.org
630-876-6450

Office Hours in Room 2608 classroom:
7:15-7:45 AM
3-3:30 PM

I have read and understand the expectations and course requirements stated above.
I have also read the attached movie permission form and will allow my child to view the selected films.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (please print): _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

Comments/Suggestions:
