

Mr. Lecci

## Advanced Placement United States History

**"History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are."--David McCullough**

Welcome to AP U.S. History! APUSH is a challenging course that is designed to be the equivalent of a freshman college course in a high school setting. It is a survey of American history from exploration to the present. To succeed in this class, you will need solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study. We will emphasize critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, and interpretation of original source documents and scholarly research. The good news is that the historical thinking skills you will learn are highly transferable; the ability to reason chronologically, to compare and contextualize events, to interpret and synthesize, and to craft and substantiate an argument are applicable to many other academic and practical disciplines, and they will serve you well in your college, career, and civic life.

### Course Objectives

- 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, letters, etc.
- Effectively use historical thinking skills of chronological reasoning, historical interpretation and synthesis, comparison and contextualization, and crafting a historical argument.
- Work effectively with others to solve problems
- Prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## Topics

- Unit 1-Transatlantic Encounters and Colonial America (1491-1754)
- Unit 2-Independence and Nation-Building (1754-1800)
- Unit 3- Young Republic and Transformation of American Society (1800-1849)
- Unit 4- Slavery, Civil War and Reconstruction (1830-1877)
- Unit 5- Expansion, Industry & the Gilded Age (1860-1900)
- Unit 6- American Imperialism, the Progressive Era, and the Jazz Age (1900-1929)
- Unit 7- Great Depression & WWII (1929-1945)
- Unit 8- Early Cold War America (1945-1960)
- Unit 9- The Liberal Era & the Conservative Resurgence (1960-1989)
- Unit 10- Modern America (1980-present)

## Books

- E-Text: *Give Me Liberty!* by Eric Foner (we will start using this book when school begins in September).
- Amsco United States History Review Book (2015 or 2016 edition). PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE TO PURCHASE THIS BOOK OVER THE SUMMER. Regardless of where you purchase the book (the publisher is the cheapest I've found), ensure you have either the 2015 or 2016 edition, as they are aligned with the latest APUSH revisions. At the time of printing this Syllabus/Summer Assignment, the AMSCO Guidebook cost is \$18.95 + tax & shipping. You can order by clicking on the following link:  
<http://www.amscopub.com/viewProduct.php?productID=1287101>
- Other primary source material and secondary source excerpts will be provided to students. I will make a variety of review materials available on my web site

### Materials Required

- Highlighters, pens (black/blue) and pencils with erasers should be brought to class daily
- A three-ring Binder, just for APUSH

### Grading Policy

Your grade will be based on the following criteria:

- Exams: 40 percent
- Projects: 20 percent
- Homework: 15 percent
- Quizzes: 15 percent
- Class Participation (attendance/involvement): 10 percent

**Note:** Each semester will have at least one special project/presentation. Also, if you are absent from class the day of a test/quiz, you will be expected to make it up within three school days.

### Homework

You should expect to have homework almost every night. Most of the homework will consist of reading from the textbook or supplemental materials. You can expect pop quizzes on the readings. Any plagiarism or copying of homework results in an automatic zero. Also, you may not go to your locker to retrieve your homework either, as this is a college course.

### Remind.com

To keep you abreast of pertinent information throughout the year, I'm asking that you sign up for a Remind account. To join the APUSH 2015-16 group, follow these instructions:

- In the To; field on your phone, enter the code 81010.
- In the message field, where you would actually write a text, type in @62hk4
- If for some reason you have issues signing up, please shoot me an email (Please sign up before school ends in June).

## Summer Assignment

In order to familiarize you with the routines of the course, you will be required to complete the following assignment over the summer. This assignment is due the first day of school—under no circumstances will the assignment be accepted late. You will have a test on the material assigned over the summer (excluding the book review), the first week of the school year. If you have any questions concerning the summer assignment, feel free to shoot me an email at [jlecci@sayvilleschools.org](mailto:jlecci@sayvilleschools.org)

### Key Points on Assignments in APUSH

- 1) Late work will not be accepted!
- 2) If for some reason your printer is broken, either put the assignment on a flash drive, or email it to yourself and print it out in school. In other words, please do not email me your assignments.

**Part One**—You are to watch John Greene's first four Crash Course videos. The titles for the episodes are listed below and can be found on youtube.com—each video is approximately 11 minutes long and all material is fair game for the summer exam.

- 1) Crash Course Video #1: The Black Legend, Native Americans and Spaniards
- 2) Crash Course Video #2: When is Thanksgiving? Colonizing America
- 3) Crash Course Video #3: The Natives and the English.
- 4) Crash Course Video #4: The Quakers, the Dutch, and the Ladies

**Part Two**—you are to read and take copious notes on the following pages in the Amsco textbook:

- Chapter 1- pages 2-13
- Chapter 2- pages 23-38

**Part Three**- Read the concept outlines for periods one and two—these can be found on my website—they will help you prepare for the summer exam.

**Part Four-** You are to write a book review on one of the following books—either purchase a used copy on Amazon, or rent one from the library:

- 1) *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand
- 2) *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America* by Erik Larson
- 3) *George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution* by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger
- 4) *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel Brown
- 5) *Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates: The Forgotten War That Changed American History* by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger
- 6) *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* by Joseph Ellis
- 7) *1776* by David McCullough
- 8) *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation* by Cokie Roberts
- 9) *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen Ambrose
- 10) *American Colonies: The Settling of North America* by Alan Taylor and Eric Foner

Imagine your review is being published in a major newspaper. The review should summarize the major topics and thesis of the book, while also discussing its readability (is it easy to read? Entertaining? Confusing? Boring?), and an evaluation of the author's effectiveness. Would you recommend the book? Your review should be 2-4 pages, in MLA format and submitted on [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). Also, you are required to bring a hard copy to class the first day of school—again, under no circumstances will I accept the assignment late.

### **Instructions for Submitting Work on Turnitin.com**

- Once you are on turnitin.com, click on create account at the top of the right side of the page.
- Where it says create a new account, click on the student link.
- Create a profile and use the following pertinent information: class ID is 12652229; class enrollment password is APUSH.
- Upload your summer assignment to the site. Again, you are required to upload your assignment on the computer and submit a hard copy on the first day of school.