AP U.S. History

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Course Description

Advanced Placement U.S. History is a two-semester course designed to teach American History and prepare students for the Advanced Placement U.S. History Exam offered in May. The exam consists of 55 multiple-choice questions, three short answer questions, a free response essay and a Document Based Question (DBQ). Students who receive passing scores of three, four, or five are eligible to earn college credit for United States History from most universities. The AP Exam is required and will be early May.

Course Purpose

This course has several purposes. First and foremost, students will learn U.S. history and government. The course is also intended to teach students to analyze, evaluate, categorize, and utilize information. Students will be taught how to effectively write historical essays using this information.

Writing- Writing assignments will accompany each unit of study in the form of short answer questions, a free response or document based question, or a combination of those. All essays will be handwritten in class. All essays will be scored according to the rubric used by the College Board. **In the first semester only, students will have an opportunity to redo some essays and short answers.** Second semester, I may or may not allow students to redo written assignments.

Tests- A comprehensive test will follow the completion of each time period. These tests are designed to be rigorous in order to challenge students at the AP Exam level. They are composed of 45 to 50 multiple choice questions which are stimulus based. The multiple choice questions follow a reading passage, map, or political cartoon. Students will be tested on terms and dates for each Period of the Amsco book.

Amsco Reading- Students will complete a Reading Log as they read each unit of the Ammsco book. The reading log will be checked periodically to ensure that you are keeping up and you will turn in the Reading Log for a grade at the end of the Unit. All classwork, homework, tests, class discussions, etc will be based on this reading. A student who falls behind in the reading will struggle to keep up with the AP Course.

Attendance/Makeup Work Policy:

Attendance in an AP class is essential. Much of the material for success is provided through class activities. Missing a block day, Wednesday or Thursday, is equivalent to missing 2 days of material. Students who miss class time will struggle to stay caught up in AP US History. Assignments can be made up, but students can't make up the learning that is facilitated in class.

- If you check in or out of school on a day when a long-standing assignment is due, you are expected to turn in the work **on that day** even if you miss class.
- All school related activities are planned well in advance. If a student will be absent for a school related activity, students are expected to **turn in work or complete a test PRIOR to the absence.**
- **Tests are announced well in advance in class.** The planned test week is provided on the Course Guide. If there is a change in the test week, students will be notified well in advance.

1. Those who are absent the day **prior** to an assessment are still expected to take the test if they return to school the day of the test/assessment.
2. If a student is absent on the day of the test, he/she will be given a discussion test as a makeup test. However, if you make up the test before a known absence you do not have to take a discussion test.

Excused Absences – Students are allowed up to three (3) school days to complete missing assignments for a maximum 100% credit. This does not include major projects or long-standing assignments where the deadline has been posted in advance.

Unexcused Absence –Late work for unexcused absences is not accepted. See p. 11 of the Student Handbook.
Late work for the Summer Assignment will not be accepted unless a student enrolled in Lee County Schools after summer break.

Late Work Policy- Late work is not allowed in AP classes.

Share the Work/Share the Grade- Assignments turned in that are the same or similar will share the grade for the assignment. For example, if there are 3 homework assignments with similar/same answers, each student will be awarded 33 pts, each sharing the 100 grade. Repeat issues with copying work will be referred to administration and receive a 0 for the grade.

Comprehensive Exam

At the end of first semester, all students will take a final exam that will count 20% of the semester grade. No exemptions due to preparation for the AP Exam.

Grading Policy

Notes 10%
Daily Work/Homework 10%
Quizzes/Essays 25%
Summative (Tests) 55%

Recording Consent Statement

Recording a class/meeting without the consent of all participants may be illegal and actionable. You must obtain consent to record a meeting from all participants who are present in the room.

Thriving in AP

- AP US History is a "flipped" Classroom. This means that students are expected to have a basic knowledge of a unit **prior to coming to class.** The information they need will be assigned through daily reading, HW assignments, a list of terms to study, and a dates list. Students who do not keep up with the flipped classroom model will struggle with daily classroom activities.
- You should not expect to be taught basic information for an entire class period in AP. **Basic fact recall information should be obtained from reading and studying terms and dates.** Class time will be utilized by using your knowledge from the reading for critical thinking activities, discussion, and/or writing.
- The reading load is considerable, especially in the first 7-10 weeks. In order to cover the maximum amount of material with the least amount of stress, becoming a part of a study group is definitely encouraged. Each student is expected to **read all text material**. **Students are responsible for understanding reading material and are encouraged to ask questions as needed in class.**

- **Time management is an essential skill for this class**, and you must take the responsibility for budgeting your time. As you become accustomed to the course format and texts, things will fall into place and become easier. It is important **to not get behind and not get discouraged.**
- **This is an extensive writing class.** You should not expect to make all A's on every writing assignment. Learning to write historically is a process and it takes practice for 95% of students.
- Take advantage of any opportunities to redo assignments.
- **Ask questions!** Communicate with your group and teacher!
- **Materials needed-** 1 ½- 2 inch binder with pockets, Amsco textbook, pens, pencils, paper, highlighters.