***“The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that weather we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand” – Vince Lombardi***

**AP US History Syllabus**

**2019-20**

**Contact Information**

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Room 503

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**Course Overview**

Advanced Placement U.S. History is meant to be a college-level course taught in high school. As such it has several distinct advantages as well as some unique challenges when compared to typical high school courses. Students can earn college credit and high school credit for the same class as long as they “pass” the AP Exam. Enrollment in AP classes can also give students an edge in admissions when applying to college. Most importantly, AP can prepare students for much greater success in their university coursework.

The Advanced Placement United States History Course is designed to provide students with the historical thinking skills necessary to analyze concepts and themes within United States History beginning in the theoretical 1491 (prior to European conquest) to the present. The course prepares students for success in the Advanced Placement United States History Exam and college courses as it introduces students to the analytical and research skills used in History courses at the college level. Specific events in United States History are used to support the instruction of concepts and themes according to the mandated course objectives provided by the College Board.

**Textbook**

The guiding text we will use for this course is *American History 15th edition* by Alan Brinkley. Throughout the course we will use the textbook to create a bank of analyzed notes. The textbook is to stay at home as there will be daily readings and analysis notes that students will be responsible for.

**Primary and Secondary Sources**

Hofstadter, Beatrice K., and Richard Hofstadter. *Great Issues in American History*. Vintage

Books., 1982.

Kennedy, David M., and Thomas Andrew Bailey. *The American Spirit*. Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

Stacy, Jason. *Documenting United States History: for the AP US History Course*. Bedford Bks St Martin’s, 2015.

Ward, Kyle. *History in the Making: an Absorbing Look at How American History Has Changed in the Telling over the Last 200 Years*. The New Press, 2008.

Yazawa, Melvin, et al. *Documents for America's History*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011.

Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States*. Harper Perennial, 1999.

**Materials Needed**

Students will need to obtain a 3 ring binder dedicated to US History and a minimum of 10 dividers (one for each time period plus general AP test information). College ruled spiral notebook(s) that will be used to take analysis notes from the textbook and lectures, Binder paper to be used for in class writings and assignments. Reliable internet access is also highly recommended (see instructor if this is not feasible).

**Course Objectives**

The objective of AP US History is to provide students with challenging college level historical instruction and exposure to higher level thinking skills and strategies. This course is designed to improve historical knowledge (Historiography and Historical Method) and writing skills that will help students both on the AP exam in the spring as well as provide a foundation for higher education classes.

**Reading Schedule**

Almost daily students will read and take analysis notes or answer questions from the textbook. A reading schedule is attached at the end of this document to help guide students over the course of the year. This schedule is a guideline and may be adjusted by the teacher as the course progresses. Again this schedule is for the textbook only, there will be other readings (primary and secondary sources) as well that will be handed out by the teacher.

**Homework**

Daily homework is necessary for the success and pace of this course. Along with the daily reading students will also have period projects, additional readings, and activities (depending of the flow of the class).

**Writing**

Writing is fundamental to success in the historical field as well as in higher level education and the workforce. Writing is also a major component of the AP class as well as the exam. A high level of importance for writing will be placed on this class to help students improve their writing skills regardless of prior level.

**Late Work/Missing Assignments**

Students will be allowed to turn in missing assignments for half credit up to two weeks from the original due date. After the two weeks the score will become a zero. If a student is absent on the day of the due date it is expected that the work be submitted through email to the teacher on the due date.

**Extra Help – Cowboy Advisory Period**

For those students who need to make up assignments, need access to a computer or are looking for extra help and clarification we will have an advisory period every Wednesday from 8:00- 8:25. This period should be utilized by students who are struggling, however all students are encourage to take advantage of this opportunity.

**Grading and Weighting**

A+ = 100-97 C+ = 79-77 F = 59 and below

A =  97-93 C = 76-73

A- = 93-90 C- = 72-70

B+ = 89-87 D+ = 69-67

B = 87-83 D = 66-63

B- = 82-80 D- 63-60

* APUSH grades are scaled differently than grade level courses. It is important to remember that a B in APUSH is the equivalent of an A in the grade level course. Students earning B’s and C’s sometimes become stressed, because they think they are doing poorly. Please keep in mind that this is a college level course, and college admission boards prefer a C in an AP class to an A+ in a grade level class.

**Weighting Breakdown**

30% = Coursework- This includes all classwork and homework.

20% = Projects and Research – This includes both group and individual projects that will be assigned throughout the course

30% = Unit Exams – Exams will follow the AP Test format and will include Multiple choice, Short Answer, Long Essay or Document based questions. These will be given a the end of each unit (time period).

20% = Final Exam – This exam will be similar to the Unit Exam just longer in length.

School loop will be updated regularly so that students may stay on task. All missing assignments will be entered as a zero until work is made up.

**Evaluations**

We will have period exams after each of the 9 periods. These will be multiple choice exams with short answer and a writing element. There will be two final exams one at the end of the 1st trimester, and one at the end of 2nd trimester. These final exams will follow the format of the AP exam.

**Extra Credit**

Extra Credit opportunities will be available throughout the course. Extra credit will come in many forms and almost always require a writing component.

**Cheating/Plagiarism**

While students are encouraged to help each other and work together at  times, cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating can take place in or out of the  classroom on anything that has a point value attached to it. Examples of work that students are required to complete independently include reading notes, essays, quizzes, exams, etc. Examples of work that students may collaborate on include study guides, discussion questions, or studying for an exam. If there is uncertainty, students are obligated to clarify with the instructor. Plagiarism is also considered cheating. Plagiarism is taking credit for the work or ideas of another person.

**Film Clips and Video Permission**

In History the use of visual aids is vital in order to enhance students understanding of the topics and ideas that we will cover. We will watch many short video clips to help illustrate what is being covered. We will watch very few if any full length movies but instead will use clips from these films in order to reinforce the material. The following videos may be used: Amistad, Lincoln, Gettysburg, Glory, Far and Away, Pearl Harbor, Saving Private Ryan, 13 Days, Freedom Song, 42, We Were Soldiers, All the Way. We will also use historical documentaries from the History Channel, PBS, and National Geographic. If you have any concerns with any of these films please let me know and an alternative assignment will be arranged.

**Class Expectations**

The following are the expectations that I have of all students:

* Students will respect others.
* Students will come to class prepared everyday and stay on task the from bell to bell.
* Students will complete all assignments to the best of their abilities.
* Students will behave in an appropriate manner that is inline with school policies.
* Students will strive to improve each and every day.
* Students will work with others and respect others for who they are.
* That the classroom will be a safe learning environment both physically and emotionally.

**Electronics Policy**

The APUSH curriculum includes a commitment to the appropriate and effective use of technology in the classroom to enhance the quality of student learning. While students may, with instructor approval, use personal electronic devices in the classroom to do work that is relevant to the class, any unapproved activities are considered disruptive to student learning and are generally prohibited when the class is in session unless specifically authorized by the instructor.

**Thematic Learning Objectives**

Through this course we will analyze the following historical themes:

National Identity (NAT), Work, Exchange, and Technology (WXT), Migration (MIG), Politics and Power (POL), America and the World (WOL), Geography and the Environment (GEO) and Culture and Society (CUL).These themes are aligned with the college boards objectives for the AP test.

**Historical Thinking Skills**

Throughout this course we will develop and continuously improve the following historical thinking skills:

Historical Causation, Patterns of Continuity and Change over Time, Periodization, Comparison, Contextualization, Historical Argumentation, Appropriate Use of Relevant Historical Evidence, Interpretation, and Synthesis

These skills are higher level thinking skills that are great tools for understanding and expressing historical knowledge. They are also essential for the AP examination and collegiate classes.

**Google Classroom/Turnitin.com**

Assignments and resource materials will be updated and posted to Google classroom throughout the class and students will need to access this site daily in order to stay up to date in the class. We will also utilize turnitin.com to submit work electronically throughout the course.

**AP Exam**

It is expected that all students will take the AP Exam in the spring (scholarships are available). Passing the Exam will give college credits at most Universities. We will spend time in this class on strategies to help pass the AP Exam. Our Final Exam for trimester 1 and 2 will resemble the AP Test format.

**Communication**

This document will not answer every question you may have so feel free to contact me at anytime. My Email listed on the first page of the syllabus is the best way to reach me.

**Signatures and Permission**

My Signature below indicates that I have read and agree to the course expectations. Signing also gives permission to view the videos listed in the syllabus Return this completed form by Friday at the latest.

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Student Name Student Signature

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Parent/Guardian Name Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent Email

Comments or any objections to the videos: