

Advanced Placement US History



Berean Christian High School

Instructor: Mrs. Carrie Jensen

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Required Texts:

1. *Give Me Liberty, An American History*; Fourth Edition by Eric Foner (textbook)
2. *Island at the Center of the World*, Russel Shorto (summer reading assignment)
3. *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine
4. *The Declaration of Independence*
5. *The United States Constitution*
6. *The War that Forged a Nation*, James McPherson
7. *The Jungle*, Upton Sinclair
8. *Witness*, Whittaker Chambers (selections)
9. Supplemental handouts and documents, provided by the instructor

Course Description:

This challenging course is designed to be the equivalent of an undergraduate college course in United States history. The course covers American history from the age of discovery to the present. Aside from the specific topics of study stated in the course outline, this class will focus on examining broad historical themes in American history including American identity, politics and power, work and technology, culture and society, migration and settlement, geography and the environment, and America in the World. Students will be expected to take appropriate lecture notes, thoroughly complete homework, and earnestly engage in class activities and discussions. APUSH students will regularly prepare for the Advanced Placement exam by answering objective multiple choice questions along with writing well-crafted essays on a variety of topics, all resembling those on the AP exam. The student can anticipate about 5-6 hours of weekly work outside of the classroom including substantial reading assignments, key term vocabulary, and short answer comprehension questions. The student will work individually and in small groups to accomplish the major task of the course: to pass the AP US History Exam with a score of 3 or higher in May 2022.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to...

- demonstrate a mastery understanding of American history- its people, events, and themes
- use historical evidence to support an argument or position
- effectively analyze, interpret, synthesize and evaluate events, eras, debates, and trends
- master the interpretation of primary and secondary sources
- identify point of view in primary and secondary sources
- recognize the active hand of God in sovereignly directing events throughout American history
- understand how to apply a Biblical worldview in the study of history
- successfully pass the Advanced Placement US History Exam

Course Requirements:

HOMEWORK: Homework will include substantial weekly reading assignments, key term vocabulary, and one AP test prep assignment. Each key term and definition will be written on a 3"x5" index card, so they can be used as review flashcards in preparation for the AP exam. Homework will be assigned Friday and due Friday of the next week. Occasionally unfinished classwork may also be assigned as homework. (15% of quarter grade)

AP PREP & PROJECTS: In order to prepare students for the rigors of the AP exam, students will regularly practice various aspects of the test. AP prep will include learning test-taking strategies, interpreting source materials, and writing short answer questions, long essay questions, and document based questions. In addition, this category will include in-class projects, such as debates, discussions, group activities, poster projects, etc. (15% of quarter grade)

BINDER CHECKS: Binder checks will occur periodically. Students will be required to hand in their binders which should include organized notes and homework assignments from the chapters covered since the last binder check. New section should have a title page which includes a timeline of events or other information as designated by the teacher. (10% of quarter grade)

ASSESSMENTS:

Tests and Quizzes: Tests are designed to be the regular means of assessing a student's comprehension of course material. Each test will cover information from 1-3 chapters in the textbook, along with supplemental lecture material. Questions will be evaluative or analytical in nature and ask about issues across various social science categories (political, economic, cultural, etc.) Students will receive a study guide a week before each test so they can study more effectively. (20% of quarter grade)

Midterm: A midterm test will be administered at the end of the first quarter and at the end of the third quarter. Each midterm will include the information covered throughout that quarter. (20% of 1st and 3rd quarter grades)

Semester Final: A semester final will be administered after the second quarter and at the conclusion of the school year. First semester's final will include information covered in the previous two quarters. Second semester's final will include information from all four quarters and is designed to be preparation for the AP exam. For this reason, the second semester's final will be administered before the AP exam, rather than during the school-wide finals week. Finals will be "closed book/notes." (20% of 2nd and 4th quarter grades)

OUTSIDE READING: Students will be required to read one outside book per quarter, chosen by the instructor. Outside reading is intended to supplement class material that AP students are learning in that particular quarter and give them a glimpse into the types of works they would typically read in a college-level history class. All books may be purchased in either a paper or an electronic copy. At the beginning of each quarter students will be given a study guide that includes the work's basic plot, themes, and significance. Also in these study guides will be a list of questions for each chapter in the book. Students will be quizzed on the book 2-3 times during the quarter. All quiz questions will come directly from the list of questions in the study guide. At the end of each quarter a book review will be assigned, asking students to analyze the historical context and influence of the work on specific events in American history. (10% of quarter grade)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

America Today Project: We learn about the past with the understanding that it is connected to the present. For this reason, in the second quarter students will complete a current event project designed to connect America's past to America's present. In a 4-5 page paper, students will discuss an issue or challenge that America is currently facing. They will also provide the historical background of the issue, speculate on the potential impact on America and on the world, and express their own position and solutions. Upon completion, students will present their projects to the class for general discussion and debate. (20% of 2nd quarter grade)

American Heroes Project: Throughout the year students will learn about men and women who shaped America and the world into what it is today. During the fourth quarter, students will draw on their knowledge of these figures and choose a person they consider to be one of the most influential figures in American history. Students will write a 3-5 page argument which describes the contribution of the person and evaluates his/her influence on American history or contemporary society. After the AP exam, students will then present their argument to the class. (20% of 4th quarter grade)

Grade Category Values:

Category	Percentage of grade
Homework	25%
AP Prep and Projects	15%
Binder Checks	10%
Quizzes and Tests	20%
Midterm (1st and 3rd quarters)/Research Projects (2nd and 4th quarters)	20%
Outside Reading	10%
TOTAL	100%

Class Policies:

GRADING: Each graded assignment will be allotted a total number of points for students to earn. Accumulated points from required assignments will be recorded in RenWeb and weighted in percentages (as stated above), which will determine a student's quarter grade in AP US History.

The grading scale is as follows: 100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, 69-60% = D, <60% = F.

Specific written and verbal directions, study guides, and/or rubrics will be used to ensure a student clearly understands what is expected of him/her to earn a passing grade on the assignment.

Students who take AP/Honors classes are rewarded with an extra grade point for each letter grade. Weighted grade points are as follows: A= 5 points, B= 4 points, C= 3 points, D= 2 points, F= 0 points

MATERIALS: Students should bring to class pencils/pens and a binder amply supplied with paper. Students will need approx 800 3x5 notecards to be kept at home unless directed to bring to class.

CLASS CONDUCT: Learning about the past and the present sometimes involves discussing controversial events and issues. To foster and encourage discussion, the classroom needs to be a place where a student's views are respected. Therefore, students are to practice common courtesy at all times. Students will be respectful and tolerant of differences and allow their classmates to express their opinions in an open, safe environment. Students will not ridicule or mock the expression of ideas or questions asked by others. Students will also refrain from interrupting their classmates while they are speaking, either to the class or in group activities. Disrespect and/or bullying will not be tolerated in APUSH and will result in demerits, at the discretion of the instructor and the Deans.

Finally, in APUSH students will learn about various world leaders from the past and the present. Students will show respect to God-given authority when discussing world leaders. While it is acceptable to not agree with a specific leader's policies and actions, it is not acceptable to mock or ridicule them. Students are encouraged to remember the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 13:1, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."

PARTICIPATION: While it is recognized that all students have different personality types, strengths, and giftings, students are strongly encouraged to participate in all discussions and debates. Students are also expected to work in collaboration with others and earnestly complete all assignments to the best of their ability. In addition, students are expected to take thorough notes during lectures.

ATTENDANCE & TARDIES: AP classes sustain a quick pace through the curriculum; therefore, it is critical students attend class. Students who are absent are responsible for getting all assignments and notes missed while he/she was absent. Tardies will be defined as stated in the Student Handbook. Students are tardy if they are not in their seats when the bell rings. A student who is more than 20 minutes late will be marked as "absent." An accumulation of tardies will result in consequences (detentions/demerits) as specified in the Student Handbook.

ABSENT WORK & LATE WORK: Students who have an excused absence will be allowed to make up all missed assignments for full credit. Refer to the Student Handbook for specific timelines to follow when turning in assignments and taking tests after an absence. In regards to late work, students may turn assignments in late up to one week past the due date for 20% credit. Students are encouraged to talk to the instructor if a particular week is impacted with major assignments and extracurriculars. Extensions on homework can be given at the discretion of the instructor, if the student takes the initiative to ask.

CELL PHONES: Cell phone use will not be tolerated in APUSH. Students must remain off their cell phones for the duration of class. Repeated inappropriate cell phone use will receive 10 demerits, at the discretion of the instructor and the Deans.

PLAGIARISM & CHEATING: Plagiarism and cheating are considered serious offenses in APUSH. Cheating is defined as obtaining answers without doing the work yourself. Students who are caught cheating on any test or assignment will receive 35 demerits, given zero points for the assignment, and referred to administration. Those students offering answers to a cheating classmate will receive 20 demerits. Plagiarism is defined as the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as your own. Students are expected to give credit and cite the authors and sources that inspire or inform their ideas. Students who plagiarize will receive 35 demerits, given zero points on the assignment, and referred to administration. See the Student Handbook for more information regarding school-wide cheating and plagiarism policies.

Tentative Course Outline:

1st Quarter

Age of Discovery
Spanish and French Empire
English Empire Building
Colonial Life
Revolutionary War
The Constitution

2nd Quarter

Jeffersonian Democracy
The Emerging Economy
Nationalism and Expansion
Jacksonian Democracy
19th Century Reform Movements
The Civil War

3rd Quarter

Reconstruction
Progressivism
World War I
1920s America
The Great Depression
World War II

4th Quarter

Post-War America
The Cold War
60s & 70s Culture Revolution
Rise of Conservatism
Post Industrial America
Globalization & War on Terror

**All information and/or policies are subject to change by the instructor for the overall benefit of the class.

Please possess all of the following class materials by Monday, August 23rd.

1. 1.5" binder
2. Colored pencils
3. 2 highlighters (in 2 different colors of your choosing)
4. Several blue or black ink pens and #2 pencils
5. 3 packs of 3"x5" index cards

**If purchasing these items presents difficulty, please talk to Mrs. Jensen.

APE Syllabus Signature Page

Keep this syllabus to reference throughout the school year. Please sign below, detach this page, and turn it in to Mrs. Jensen by Monday, August 16th for 5 points. This signature page will count as the first homework assignment of the school year. I'm looking forward to taking this journey with you! ☺

Students, if you agree to the following statement, please sign and date below...

“I acknowledge that I have read this syllabus. By signing below I am agreeing to complete the assignments and adhere to the classroom policies, as outlined in this syllabus.”

Student Name

(print):

Student Signature:

Date:

Parents/Guardians, if you agree to the following statement, please sign, date, and answer the two questions below...

“I acknowledge that my student and I have both read this syllabus. I agree to hold my student responsible for what is expected of him/her in AP US History.”

Parent/Guardian Name (print):

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

Preferred method of communication:

Phone number and/or email address:

Best days & times to contact you:

If you'd like to share important information regarding your student, please briefly state it on the back of this page. This signature page will be kept in a secured location and remain confidential.