

Advanced Placement United States History

2016-2017

Course Description:

The Advanced Placement program in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials of United States History. The course prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college survey courses in United States history. Students will learn to interpret and evaluate the relative significance of primary and secondary source material, and to present their evidence and conclusions clearly and persuasively in an essay format. This class requires a level of participation and effort well beyond the ordinary high school level. We cover a large amount of content and must move quickly. The AP US History Test will be FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017.

Things to Consider

- Successful APUSH students are strong independent learners. With the numerous time constraints placed on the typical high school class period, coupled with the small number of weeks each semester, there is not enough time to cover the large amount of material necessary in class. Therefore, students must independently research topics and content outside of the materials that is discussed in class.
- The amount of work per week varies; however, the class covers approximately two chapters a week. There is at least one writing assignment each unit and projects throughout the school year. In addition to your nightly assignments, students should expect to have some homework over vacations. On average, students should expect one to two hours per night minimum preparing course material.

Words of Wisdom from past students:

- Buy an AP US History Review book as soon as possible
Recommended: United States History, Amsco Publications, Authors John Newman and John Schmalbach ISBN-13: 978-0-7891-8904-2 (No older than the 2015 edition!)
- Study each night---do not get behind
- Read the textbook and do the chapter notes
- This is not a course where smart students can succeed without significant studying
- Forming study groups is helpful.

Expectations:

- Be in class regularly and participate in class discussions and activities.
- Have a positive attitude.
- Read and take chapter notes regularly.
- Though not a requirement, students are encouraged to take the AP Exam.
- Complete all work to the best of your ability and turn everything in on time.

Summer Assignments

The summer assignment will allow students to "hit the ground running," saving valuable time. Summer assignments are due on the first day of class! No late work will be accepted. Students who do not turn in the assignment on the first day will receive a zero. *Students who enroll in the course after August 10 will be granted a 1-week extension from the date you enrolled in the course.*

Assignment: (All assignment materials can be located on the class website ghsapush.com)

1. Read and answer the guiding questions over the selection from *After the Fact*
Davidson, J. W., & Lytle, M. H. (2000). *After the fact: The art of historical detection*. Boston: McGraw-Hill.
2. Read and complete the reflection assignments for the book *Voyage Long and Strange*
Horwitz, T. (2008). *A voyage long and strange: Rediscovering the new world*. New York: Henry Holt and.
3. Read and complete the assignments for Chapter 1 of the course textbook from the website
All work must be handwritten. Expect a formal assessment on this material the first day of class!

APUSH ACADEMIC CONTRACT

Please read carefully

SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAPER TO YOUR APUSH TEACHER ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS

-
- I will take all assigned activities seriously and will complete them to my best ability (regardless of my decision to take the AP exam).
 - I will seek extra help outside of class early in the semester (and whenever I feel like I need it) from either the instructor or from other suggested resources.
 - I will adhere to the GHHS Honor Code, realizing that academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. ALL work will be by own, individual, original product.
 - I will make up all missed assignments and be prepared for pre-assigned class activities on the day I return.
 - I will turn in all required class work and home work when due. I understand unexcused late work will not be accepted for credit.
 - I understand that there are no extra credit assignments.
 - I understand that failure to complete the summer assignment by the first day of class will result in a ZERO.

Sign below to indicate that you have read the course description and understand the expectations for APUSH.

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Student email (print): _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent email (print): _____