

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY 2017-2018
Ms. Ferrari (Room #1641)

Course Description

This course is a study of American History from the discovery and settlement of the New World through the present day. We will examine issues and events in American History that have impacted the social, political, cultural, and economic structures of American society and ultimately shaped the country we live in today. The course is specifically designed to provide you with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with these issues and events. The course is as much (if not more) skills based as it is content based so one must devote equal time to the development of both.

Advanced Placement U.S. History is a college-level course that will require a tremendous amount of self-discipline, independence, and responsibility. Success in this course and on the A.P. exam will be a function of each student's commitment, work ethic, and willingness to meet the instructor half-way.

Course Materials

- Text: Fraser, James W. *By the People*. AP edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Education, 2015.
- Mintz, S., & McNeil, S. (2013). *Digital History*. Retrieved 2015-2016 from <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu>
- Independence Hall Association. *US History.org*. Retrieved 2015-2016 from <http://www.ushistory.org>
- ABC CLIO. American History Database. Retrieved 2015-2016 from <http://americanhistory.abc-clio.com/>
- Supplement: Irish, John P. *Historical Thinking Skills*. AP U.S. History. New York, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2015.
- Required miscellaneous items for the course:
 - **Loose Notebook Paper OR Spiral Notebook**- Notes (all hand written) & for in class assignments
 - **2 Three-ring binder**- all course material will be stored in this binder. This includes, but is not limited to, study guides, posted documents, and in class assignments. Due to the amount of material you will want one binder for semester 1 and one binder for semester 2. I will recommend not throwing ANYTHING away till the end of the year.
 - **11 Dividers**- APUSH has 9 time periods of study, you will need one divider for each time period, one divider for Writing, and one divider for reference material that will go at the front of your binder.

Class Rules

1. Arrive to class on time and be prepared to start with the bell. If you must be late for any reason, you **MUST** come in with a pass, then please enter the classroom and get settled quietly. (I will strictly adhere to OTHS's tardy policy)
2. Bring required materials to class every day (i.e. writing utensil, loose notebook paper, reading guides, supporting documents, & any item periodically designated ahead of time).
3. No eating full meals in class (snacks are ok), drinks **MUST** have a twist cap, and of course **NO SLEEPING** in class.
4. Much of this course is discussion oriented; therefore, please raise your hand if you wish to participate (don't shout out). Students will be randomly called upon to participate.
5. Respect all classmates, OTHS faculty, and OTHS property at all times---**NO EXCEPTIONS!**
6. All students should have 100% of their attention focused on their class work, 100% of the time-----we only have 50 minutes each day.
7. **CELL PHONES**
 - a. School and district policy will be strictly adhered to regarding the use of cell phones during school hours.
 - b. If you are actively using your phone at a non-designated time, I will ask you to put it away, and after that it will be taken up. (Your phone will be confiscated and turned into an Administrator).
8. Audio and/or video recording of any kind at any time is strictly prohibited and violates Katy ISD district policy. **DO NOT TAKE PICTURES DURING CLASS!**

Course Expectations

Class discussion, participation, attentiveness, and good attendance are essential for success. Students must keep pace with the assigned readings, assignments, etc. The course progresses at a very fast pace and can quickly develop into a snowball effect if discipline and organization are not maintained. Remember, this course is taught at a college level and it is imperative for you always to be prepared.

Course Evaluation

Grading for the course will consist of at least two major grades and four minor grades each six weeks.

(70%) Major Grades- major tests to include objective (multiple choice) tests, document-based essay tests, and long essay tests.

(20%) Minor Grades- reading quizzes, some in-class assignments

(10%) Other Grades- Daily (this could be anything from WS, to participation, to HW, ect.)

*Extra credit is **rarely, if ever**, offered but the use of progressive testing provides an opportunity for students to potentially raise overall test grades within a six week grading period.

*All assignments will be due at the beginning of the period unless otherwise specified.

*Late work will be accepted under certain circumstances and/or if the student has an excused absence (see below).

*Never will it be acceptable to turn in material that is typed on a computer, everything will be hand written as the AP Exam is hand written. Turning in typed material for vocabulary, essays, reading guides, or any other assignment, unless otherwise specified, **will result in a zero for that assignment.**

Absences

It is the student's responsibility to check with the teacher for any missed assignments while absent. All assignments, quizzes, or tests must be made up in a timely manner. Students have the length of the absence to complete any make-up work. Failure to complete make-up work in the designated time frame will result in a dramatic reduction in the grade. Due to the nature of this course, there is very little flexibility with this policy except in extenuating circumstances.

Tentative Course Outline

The course will ultimately be divided into nine periods of study. Each period contains key concepts, significant topics, and supporting evidence that must be mastered. Please see the document at our webpage for the abbreviated content and associated dates of each period.

First Semester

Pre-Columbian North America through the Civil War

Second Semester

Post Civil War and the Gilded Age through present day

*The above course outline is only a general guide and is subject to change at any time due to unforeseen circumstances

The Advanced Placement Exam

Students who perform well in A.P. U.S. History are highly encouraged to take the national exam administered in May. Dependent upon their scores and university of choice students may earn up to six hours of college credit. We will be reviewing closer to test time; however, students must also review on their own to guarantee a passing grade. Please feel free to bring up questions at any time regarding the exam.

Miscellaneous

Expectations for this course are very high, and I am always here to assist you. I will be more than happy to offer any extra help before or after school (please arrange ahead of time). I want all of you to succeed both in this course and on the A.P. exam, so please do not ever hesitate to express a need. Good luck, and thanks in advance for all of your hard work this school year.