

## AP UNITED STATES HISTORY 2020-2021

### 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

- 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 & 2018-2019 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.
- **Supplement:** Sabathne, James, and Jason Stacy. *Past Forward: Articles from the Journal of American History*. Oxford University Press, in Collaboration with the Journal of American History, 2017.
- **Supplement:** Newman, John J., and John M. Schmalbach. *United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination*. Amsco School Publications, 2018.
- **Supplement:** Text: Fraser, James W. *By the People*. AP edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Education, 2015.
- **Required miscellaneous items for the course:**
  - **Study Guides:** *These will be provided electronically as well as paper-based for Face to Face classes.*
    - Overview Readings, Significant Topics, Identifications, HTS Application Questions

**OPTIONAL** (these materials are not required but suggested for better organization)

- **2 Three-ring binder**- all course material would be stored in these binders. This includes, but is not limited to, study guides, document packets, and in-class assignments. Due to the amount of material, you may want one binder for semester 1 and one binder for semester 2. You should never throw ANYTHING away till the end of the year after the AP US History Exam.
- **11 Dividers**- APUSH has 9 time periods of study, you will want one divider for each time period of study, as well as one divider for Writing, and one divider for reference materials that will go at the front of your binder.
- **Loose Notebook Paper OR Spiral Notebook**- If necessary for Notes (all handwritten) & for miscellaneous in-class assignments. While note space will be provided for in your Study Guides if you write extremely detailed notes you may want more space than what is already provided.

### Class Rules for Face to Face classes

#### 1. **Wear A Mask At All Times**

- Everyone attending class in person will be required per Katy ISD district policy to wear a mask the entire time you are at school. You should not remove your mask within my classroom.
2. 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 utensils, 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 classwork, 100% of the time----we only have 50 minutes each day.
  7. **CELL PHONES**
    - School and district policy will be strictly adhered to regarding the use of cell phones during school hours.
    - 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 WITHOUT ASKING FIRST!!**

### Class Rules for Face to Face classes

#### 1. **Be Prepared**

- **Dress appropriately:** It's important that you show others the respect they deserve when meeting with them to discuss content and ideas. Don't show up in your pajamas even if you don't think you will be using your camera, it's always better to be prepared just in case you do.
  - Have all materials ready to participate in class: do the prep work and have the handouts required to complete the assignment downloaded and ready.
2. Use the video if you are comfortable or at least have a nice picture uploaded:

- So when you are meeting with people they see your face and not just a black screen with a name.
3. Stage your video area:
    - Be aware of your surroundings and what you are showing the rest of the people you are meeting with. It is best to be **set up at a table or desk** so that you are ready to take notes or work if necessary. Choose a place with good light so that you aren't meeting with people in a cave.
  4. **Be on time!**
    - Make sure that you are already logged on and **ready to begin the meeting at the appointed time.**
  5. Stay on mute if you aren't speaking:
    - This helps others to focus on those that are speaking without the background noise of your dog barking in the background.
  6. Use appropriate language:
    - Sometimes we get too comfortable not being in the same physical room as those we are meeting with, but please remember to conduct yourself just as you would if we were in face to face class.
  7. Do not eat during the meeting:
    - Try to maintain a professional environment and use the time between classes to get a snack. It can be hard to balance eating your chicken parm and analyzing documents for discussion at the same time, so just focus on the work for the duration of the meeting.
  8. **Stay focused:**
    - Don't try to multitask during the meeting. You will end up having to redo the work and it will take twice as long.

### 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, additional reading, 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.