



Advanced Placement U.S. History

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Room 1123

Course Description

AP United States History was designed with a focus on culture of the United States from approximately 1491 to the present. Students will develop a greater understanding of processes and interactions between groups within the United States through a study of historical patterns.

AP United States History is about skills, not just content, and will encourage all students in attaining their highest achievement level through skill acquisition and personal growth. Students will read and organize data based on themes, write analytical and document-based essays, and analyze primary and secondary sources.

AP United States History is a differentiated curriculum in depth, complexity, pacing, and novelty, meeting the state guidelines for gifted and talented education through a variety of instructional strategies, including individual and group work, questioning, critical reading and thinking, and class activities.

Class Structure

We will follow a flipped classroom method where students access the content from prescribed videos each night, complete the designated worksheets and be prepared to discuss the following day. During class we will utilize time to develop testing and writing strategies essential to do well on the exam. There will be homework each weekend. **All told students will probably have two hours of HW per week.**

Core Course Objectives

At the completion of the course all students will be able to perform the following at a higher personal level:

- think, read, listen, write, and communicate with understanding
- analyze evidence and interpretations presented in a variety of historical texts, both primary and secondary and use the information to plan a meaningful discussion, written or oral
- prepare and execute a well-constructed, multi-paragraph essay, including Short Answer, Long Essay and Document Based Question
- utilize a variety of resources in planning and directing research for a mixture of projects, essays, and activities
- flesh out a series of questions that challenges a text's meaning and shows an understanding of the material



Course Pacing

- Module 1:1 - 1:4 “Europeans Make Claims In The Americas” (1491-1607)
- Module 2.1 - 2:9 “Colonial America Amid Global Change” (1607 -1754)
- Module 3:1 - 3:9 “A Revolutionary Era” (1754-1800)
- Module 4:1 - 4:8 “Democracy, Industrialization, and Reform” (1800-1848)
- Thanksgiving Break** *(HW will be assigned)*
- Module 5:1 - 5.8 “Expansion, Division, and Civil War” (1844-1877)
- Module 6:1 - 6.2
- Christmas Break** *(no HW)*
- Module 6.3 - 6.10 “The Gilded Age: 1865-1898)
- Module 7.1 - 7.11 “New Imperialism and Global Conflicts) (1890 - 1945)
- Presidents Break** *(HW will be assigned)*
- Module 8.1 - 8.11 “The Cold War America (1945 - 1980)
- Spring Break** *(Review Materials will be assigned)*
- Module 9.1 - 9.4 “1980 to Present”
- Review prior to test in early May

Course Materials:

- **Students are expected to bring a laptop each class period** as we utilize a digital notebook to complete assignments, writing skills, and lecture notes.
- Students will need access to YouTube and Google Classroom to access the video content and the digital notebook.
- The following text is required: Fabric of a Nation, 1st Edition 2020. Any additional or supplemental texts will be made available in PDF via Google Classroom.

Homework/Reading

- The amount of reading and coursework depends on your speed and comprehension.
- Each night you will be assigned either a video with analysis worksheet, a primary source analysis (SPY), or reading to prepare for either a socratic seminar or debate.
- All work will be completed in the digital notebook, unless other arrangements are made.

Academic Integrity

- You are expected to do your own work and not share it with others. Downloading assignments, essays or other work from the internet or sharing assignments electronically and submitting them as your own, is unethical and will result in a zero.
- If any portion of your work is not your own, you risk notification of administration.
- It is up to instructor discretion to complete a referral which will impact your official transcripts and some clubs on campus.

Late Work

- All assignments are due on the scheduled date.
- Late work will earn ½ credit. **Late work is accepted TWO WEEKS** after due date, unless other arrangements are made with the instructor.



- The exception to this are projects, debates or group essays which must be turned in the date they are due even if out for illness or school approved events. Turn the project in early if you know you will be missing.
- No assignments will be accepted if a student has been truant.

Make-up Work/Exams

- Many in-class assignments may be made up due to an illness or scheduled absence, and a student has **5 school days** from the original date to make up the assignment, this includes in-class tests and essays.
- All make-up exams must be completed either before school or during Advisement.
- You must make appointment with instructor and complete the necessary steps if you desire to take during Advisement.
- All make-up work and tests is at the discretion of the teacher and may include different questions and formats.
- No credit will be earned if the student has been has been truant.

Communication (Questions, Concerns, Emergencies)

- Open lines of communication are vital to success. Please do not hesitate to contact me. I strongly recommend that you communicate with me in person or **email** prior to involving your parents. You are young adults and need to begin practicing those skills now - and asking your parents to intervene without meeting with the instructor personally thwarts your development.
- PARENTS: **email is my preferred method of communication**; however, please have your daughter/son discuss any issues with me first.
- STUDENTS: email is best but **NOT VIA CANVAS**. It is best to see me before school or make arrangements to meet during Advisement.

Grading Standards

Coursework will be evaluated along the following guidelines:

- A (90-100) — Outstanding achievement
- B (89-80) – Above-average achievement
- C (79-70) – Average, minimal achievement
- F (69 or below) – Failure to meet District standards and objectives of the course

Academic Grading System

All coursework, exams and class participation will be based on Total Points. Grades will be posted bi-weekly and available using Infinite Campus portal.

- Participation points are typically earned each month. These are earned via class discussion, asking questions, review games, positive interaction with your partners, or helping improve the classroom culture.
- Assigned work will often be done using a Time Period digital notebook. Students will be expected to watch the nightly videos, complete the corresponding analysis worksheets, and navigate the notebook as assigned.



Test Corrections

- On essays (LEQ or DBQ's) students can take advantage of the 10% bump by retaking the exam in class within ONE week. Those who scored less than 69% can earn a 70%; those 79% or lower can earn 80%; and those 89% or lower can earn a 90%. Students 90% or above do not have option to improve grades
- On SAQ or MCQ exams (often combined) students can take advantage of the 10% bump that will follow same protocols above and you will have opportunity to complete a lengthy review guide which can be used while retaking the exam. Review guide not completed entirely and done by hand will revoke your opportunity for re-test.
- Just to be clear, you will ONLY have one week to take advantage of the test corrections. A chronic absence or school related events do not give additional time for re-takes.

Restroom Passes/5 -Star

- Students will be expected to utilize the 5 Star system. If a personal cell phone is not available for the check-out procedure, a laptop has been provided.
- Only one student at time.

Classroom Behavior

- To be successful students need to be in class on time, prepared to learn, cooperative class participants, and working actively with others as a team.
- Continued negative participation, including being tardy or absent, being off-task, defiant, or displaying a lack of cooperation, will result in one or more of a series of mediations.

AP Exam

- It is the teacher and course expectation that all students will prepare and take the AP exam in May. Those who sign up for the exam by the district due date will be excused from the second semester cumulative final exam.
- Post exam all students will complete a family history project or political typography and will share the findings in a 2 minute classroom presentation.

If you have questions, contact Mr. VomSteege at dvomsteeg@tvusd.us