

THUNDERBOLTS
 Because we care
 Community as one, I
 belong, You belong, We
 belong
 Accountability OWN IT
 My acts have impacts
 Respect CHECK
 YOURSELF! You must
 inspect what you expect
 Energy PLUS UN Power
 your purpose with passion



Course Overview Advanced Placement United States History

The Course: AP US History is a demanding and rigorous introduction to American history and culture. Course requirements assume a high level of interest and competence. Rigor and writing loads will be substantially heavier than most high school history classes.

Goals:

1. Develop and sharpen students' reading, writing, and analytical skills. Students should understand that history is not just a set of facts to be memorized. The study of history should be an analytical process in which students are evaluating and interpreting information from a variety of sources such as books, documents, maps, graphs and charts, and other visuals. Students in this class will do a lot of writing to express what they have learned. These skills will hopefully be of great use to students in the future, and will also assist in the accomplishment of goal #3.
2. Students will learn a lot about US history. My assumption is that students have enrolled in this class because they are interested in the content. This is not a pre-requisite, but your interest level will help based on the required commitment level. This will be a very intensive course, as 400 years of history will be covered in a single school year. There is not a lot of flexibility in the schedule. Therefore, students will need to be intrinsically motivated to learn about US history. I feel that those who are will have an enjoyable experience. Regardless, like any course, you will get out what you put in and this class *will help prepare you for college*.
3. Prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam given in the late spring. If the first two goals are accomplished; the student should be adequately prepared for the exam. Practice exams and other forms of preparation will be woven into the course throughout the school year.

Homework: Students are expected to prepare for the material to be presented in class in advance. That preparation might take the form of reading the textbook, or using online resources (videos) that will be provided. You will be quizzed at the end of each lecture and will be expected to take notes on your own and in class. There will be occasional outside assignments and readings throughout the year.

Exams: Like most college classes your grade will largely be determined by exams. There will be eight, two- part exams over the course of the year. These exams will include a multiple choice and short answer section on one day and a Free Response or DBQ (Document Based Question) on the other day. Much of the early part of the school year will be spent preparing students to interpret documents from the author's **point of view, purpose, intended audience, or historical context**. Understand that there are very few homework points in this class. The vast majority of the grade you will earn will be determined by your performance on quizzes, and especially exams.

Missed quizzes and exams: must be made up within four school days. Exceptions will be made in extenuating circumstances, but this class moves along quickly and it is in your best interest to make up things quickly. Please see me if you need any extra time for tests or assignments and be prepared to tell me why.

Textbook: The American Pageant, published by Houghton Mifflin.

Review Sessions: Before every exam I will hold a review session in my room to cover major topics, possible essay prompts and answer any questions you may have. These will be announced in class and individual requests to meet are always welcome.

Materials: You can organize how you see fit, but you will receive a lot of handouts and take a lot of notes so I would suggest a notebook and folder at the least and possibly a binder.

The Bottom Line: Yes this is a college course, and yes it will challenge you, BUT, *I am here to help you.* I mean that. The greatest pleasure I derive from this course is taking a student who is unsure they can do it, and seeing them through to the end. You can succeed, you will succeed, and I will see to it. Please understand that I will do everything I can to get you ready to pass the AP Exam and this class will make you a better student in college and a better student of life. Thunderbirds—Because WE CARE, remember?

Let's have a great year together. We will laugh, we will struggle, we will study, we will build a cult, I mean community together. PLEASE REACH OUT TO ME THROUGHOUT THE STRUGGLE. WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!

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