

2025-2026

Advanced Placement United States History: APUSH -- Course Connections / Expectations / Syllabus

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Welcome to Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH),

My name is Stefanie Jordan. This will be my eighth year teaching and fifth here at Wachusett. I love history and find APUSH to be a particularly challenging and enjoyable class to teach. This course will be using Google Classroom as our main hub for communication and the interactions of materials. Students will also be using another platform called Actively Learn & AP Classroom, where they will access assignments and materials for the course.

Please feel free at any time to email myself for any support or questions that you may have.

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Course Overview & Objectives

Advanced Placement United States History is a survey of American history covering the pre-Columbian era through to Attacks of 9/11. This course is designed to prepare you to take the Advanced Placement United States History exam on **May 8, 2026..**

In this course you will experience academically challenging reading, writing assignments, activities, assessments, and discussions that are meant to be the equivalent of a freshman college course. **You are expected to use and further develop strong reading and writing skills, as well as, the ability to work and study independently.**

"Classroom" Expectations

Expectations of You:

1. Be in class on time.
2. Come to class with all appropriate materials.
3. RESPECT ALL ideas expressed by students in the class.
4. Participate on a daily basis.
5. Turn in assignments on time/if absent take responsibility for missing work.
6. Have fun, learn and strive to make meaning of the content.

Expectations of Me:

1. RESPECT you and all of your ideas.
2. Be available if you need extra help. (Email to schedule meeting time).
3. Provide appropriate time and notice for writing assignments and projects.
4. Listen and be flexible while being sensitive to individual learning needs.
5. Have fun, learn and strive to help you make sense of the content.

DAILY Material Requirements

1. *Course Textbook (Online or Hard text)
2. **Notebook/Binder with Folder/ChromeBook**
3. Writing Utensil

TOTAL POINTS Grading & Class Requirements

Your grade will be based on essays/papers, oral reports, class participation, at-home learning, quizzes, tests and a final exam. In addition:

-Each student will be expected to participate daily in class verbally, as well as, submitting daily work through the classroom page.

-Students will write long essays and document based analysis essays

-Students will conduct research on any given topic and give an oral report for the class

-Formal Assessments will be given at the end of Units and Sub-Units.

-Plagiarism will not be tolerated. See the student handbook for the guidelines for writing and consequences of plagiarism. Students will receive a "0" for any work proven to be plagiarized; this includes any work completed using AI.

-Attendance is expected and crucial to the success of your performance. See student handbook for policy.

Homework / Late Work Policy:

1. Students will turn in homework assignments the day it is due. In some cases assignments “can” be collected for late credit at discretion of the teacher.
2. Late essays and take-home quizzes/tests/projects will be marked down -10 (letter grade) for every day it is late, unless otherwise stated.

Formal Exams

Assessments will include key terms and concepts, primary and secondary source readings from the topics studied. Appropriate use and evidence of understanding of historical thinking skills and content pertaining to the course.

If absent, assessments should be made up the next day the student is in class, if possible, otherwise within five school days AND scheduled with the teacher.

Analytical Essays and Projects

Essays will be assessed based on organization, content, spelling, and punctuation.

AP Rubrics will be provided pertaining to expectations of long essays, short essays and document based analysis essays. -- Projects will be conducted on an individual and group basis.

Quizzes and Study-Guides

Quizzes will be given BI-weekly, based on two chapters of AMSCO.

Guided Reading Questions/Notes Handouts will be provided weekly for EACH CHAPTER. Handwritten Reading Notes are able to be used on reading quizzes.

If absent quizzes should be made up the next day, if possible. Otherwise quizzes should be made up within three school days AND scheduled with the teacher.

Classwork / Homework

Classwork and Homework will be assessed based on quality of content, understanding, effort, completeness, writing and active note-taking. HW will reinforce reading and writing skills. / HW will support and expand on information presented in class. / HW will involve studying material central to the understanding of social studies concepts. / HW will be assigned regularly in all social studies classes.

****Assignments for this class will be posted to Google Classroom and linked through the Actively Learn Class Page. Be prepared to keep up with the reading assignments.**

****STUDENTS WILL BE WEEKLY USING THE AMSCO TEXT.****

****STUDENTS WILL CONDUCT READING QUIZZES WEEKLY****

****STUDENTS WILL HAVE READINGS GUIDES & UNIT STUDY GUIDES Due at the end of EVERY Unit of study****

Assessments and your final grade is based on quizzes, essays, tests, projects, research, exams, presentations, homework, and meeting class expectations.

Course Textbook

Newman, John and John Schmalbach. United States History Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination. New York: AMSCO School Publications, INC., 1998. 2020 Edition. **(I will refer to this text as AMSCO).**

**** This is available for purchase from Perfection Learning for \$25.****

We also have a PDF online version. -- STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BUY A COPY!

APUSH Unit Time Periods

Unit 1: 1491-1754

Unit 4: 1844-1877

Unit 7: 1945-1980

Unit 2: 1754-1800

Unit 5: 1865-1898

Unit 8: 1980-present

Unit 3: 1800-1848

Unit 6: 1890-1945

Historical Thinking Skills – These are the key skills we will continually develop over the course of the year.

Chronological Reasoning

- Historical Causation
- Patterns of Continuity and Change Over Time
- Periodization

Comparison and Contextualization

- Comparison
- Contextualization

Crafting Historical Arguments from Historical Evidence

- Historical Argumentation
- Appropriate Use of Historical Evidence

Historical Interpretation and Synthesis

- Interpretation
- Synthesis

Extra Help/Make-up Work

I encourage you to come for extra help if you have any problems with the material or writing a paper. I am available by appointment before school for extra help or make-up work. Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns.

Miscellaneous

If anyone is caught cheating or attempting to cheat on any assignment, the student will receive a zero. Cheating is also in the Student Code of Conduct and cases will be reported to the office and parents contacted and dealt with accordingly.

Any assignment that is not given as a pair or group assignment is considered an individual assignment and answers should not be shared. Some assignments with minor problems (i.e. only a few responses are similar) will receive a reduced grade on the first offense as a warning.

On group projects, students who do not contribute equally may receive an individual rather than a group assessment. This means their grade may be lower than that of their group or their partner.

Please let me know if there is a problem with a group member so it can be addressed before it reaches that point.

VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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All students' academic work must reflect their own honest efforts. Cheating and plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to copying homework, papers, lab reports, or quiz or test answers; acquiring or disseminating quizzes or tests before they are administered; or using information from the Internet or other outside sources without proper attribution.

Any student known to have cheated will be subjected to penalties, up to receiving "0" for the work.

Possible penalties will be made known to each class by the teacher and will be included in the course syllabus.

Students who collaborate with others in cheating by allowing their papers to be copied or by other means will be subjected to penalties commensurate with their involvement, which may include the student receiving "0" for the work or suffering significant grade reduction.

In all cases, the principal or the class administrator along with the department head and teacher will be informed about both the incident and the penalty imposed, and the parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified. The administration reserves the right to impose other penalties up to and including removal from the course, removal from honor societies, and loss of eligibility for scholarships with "honor" as criteria.

Class Syllabus Signature Links

Please use the appropriate link below to complete the electronic signature of the course syllabus.

Both the student and a parent/guardian should complete their form to accept the course syllabus and expectations set forth. Any questions please contact me at stefanie_jordan@wrsd.net .

****Please follow the link below for electronic syllabus sign-off****

Please understand that by electronically signing the "sign off sheet" the signature implies that the signee's (student & parent/guardian) are declaring they have read the above syllabus and course expectation document.

PLEASE CLICK & FOLLOW LINK BELOW:

[STUDENT/GUARDIAN-PARENT SIGN OFF](#)

