



11th Grade American History Syllabus + AP

*"America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination
and an unbeatable determination to do
the job at hand."*

Harry S. Truman - 33rd President of the United States

Mr. Barnhill

Room#: 213

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Welcome to 11th Grade United States History! This class covers the breadth of United States history from the colonial period to the present day. This is a rigorous class that is taught to prepare students for college level work, as well as to assist in preparation for the AP exam for those that wish to take it.

This year students will take the exam on Friday, May 6th at 8am. Students will need to decide whether they wish to take the exam by November 15th.

Course Outline/Graded Work

This summary course covers the breadth of United States history beginning from pre-colonial times until the modern day. We will emphasize the development of historical thinking and analysis skills.

This class is quite rigorous and will push student capabilities in many areas. As a result of this students will have a significant amount of work to complete at home including assignments, essays, and general studying. This entire class is cumulative and past materials will be necessary to complete assignments and assessments throughout the year. This causes problems for students who, for whatever reason, become disengaged from the content for several weeks or months because it becomes almost impossible to catch up. Falling behind early can lead to a very painful school year. The curriculum remains largely the same whether a student elects to take the APUSH exam or not as our goal is to prepare all students for college level work.

Students will usually be informed before any tests or quizzes. However, I reserve the option to use pop quizzes as needed. I do not allow test retakes. I may allow students to use their unused late work passes to retake quizzes at my discretion.

I highly recommend that students invest in a study book for the APUSH Exam if they intend to take the test, but make sure to obtain a copy from 2015 or later due to a redesign of the class that occurred in that year.

APUSH

The state pays for students who wish to take the Advanced Placement United States History exam to take it for free. The exam is scored on a 1 - 5 scale and with a 3+ being a passing score. Passing an AP exam gives you 6 college credits, which is twice what dual credit would give, and AP Credits are accepted at the vast majority of colleges nationwide. Students have until October to decide if they want to take the exam and are free to come to me for advice. You must sign up for the exam to have the APUSH section show up on your transcripts.

Much like honors, students who take the APUSH section will be required to attend occasional after school supplementary sessions where we take a deeper dive into the exam and essay writing, including looking at the DBQ (Document Based Question).

Grading

There are few to no free points in this class. Be advised that my grading is very content focused and you will not get any points for simply turning in an assignment that you obviously did not put work into.

In recent years I have had significant problems with students abusing my willingness to accept late work, and that has led to students struggling with falling further and further behind. To combat this I have adopted a very strict late work policy this year. I will accept late work one day late for a maximum of 50% credit. I may make exceptions to this policy at my discretion and the circumstance. "I had work" or "I forgot" are not special circumstances.

If you are worried about meeting a deadline for an assignment, whether it be for academic or personal reasons, please talk to me asap and NOT after the assignment is past due. I consider myself to be extremely accommodating and it is very rare for me to not grant extra time on an assignment if I believe that the reason is legitimate.

Communication

By far the most efficient way to contact me is through my email at nbarnhill@xaviercharter.org. I check this email several times a day during the school year, including during the school day and on weekends. I do have a classroom phone, but I rarely check it, and it is not a good way to get in touch with me.

Recognition

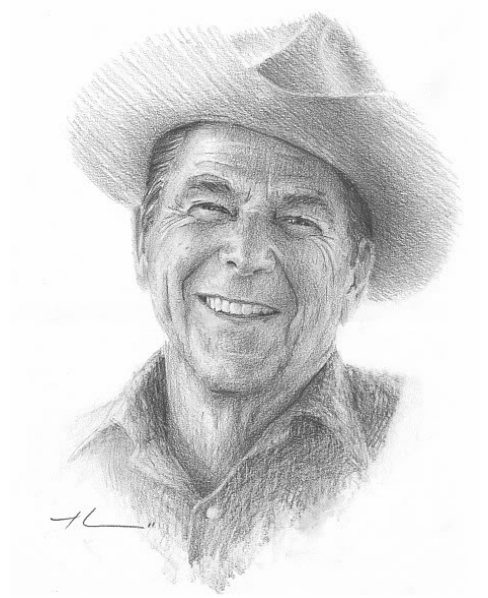
I believe in recognizing students for their positive achievements in the classroom. These achievements could be high scores on an exam, improvement in scores, or an exemplary essay and will be recognized in a general way in the classroom. If you have questions feel free to contact me.

Academic Honesty

Students should keep in mind Xavier's academic honesty policy as spelled out in the student handbook. Also keep in mind that informing other students of the content of quizzes or exams when they are in a different class period IS CHEATING and will result in both students receiving 0 points. Students should only use resources approved by the teacher on essays.

Materials

In addition to the standard supplies listed on the Xavier website, students are asked to bring a set of 3x5 note cards as well as some sort of organizer for them. I recommend using multi colored note cards if they are available.



"Above all, we must realize that no arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have."

Ronald Reagan - 40th President of the United States

11th Grade

(Please sign and return) **"I have read and understand the course expectations and will contact Mr. Barnhill with any questions or concerns."**

Student Name (PRINT) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Does the student desire to be in the AP section of the class and take the AP Exam? (This may be changed up to November 15th)

- ☐ **Yes** students would like to be in the AP section of the class
- ☐ **No** the student does not want to be in the AP section of the class

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____



We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon.

Franklin D. Roosevelt - 32nd President of the United States