# AP United States History (APUSH) - Ms. Morgan

The best way to contact me is via email
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Welcome to APUSH! I am so excited to have you in class this year and am looking forward to getting to know and support each of you throughout our time together.

This course is a rigorous, college level course with a lot of material and content to cover as well as a lot of skills and habits to practice and develop. The curriculum is rigorous (and largely determined by that AP exam that we are barrelling towards). I have high expectations for students in this course and I imagine you have high expectations for yourself as well. I can't wait to see your success!

Another challenging component of this course is the contested meaning of America and the contested nature of its history—this history matters to a lot of people, but it often matters to them in different ways. I expect that you too will care about what we study this year, that you will find yourself at times inspired, at times perplexed, and at others infuriated. Our work will be to use facts abundantly as we seek to understand and develop our own insights about the different narratives that make up this history.

We must create and maintain a positive learning environment for every person in our class. We will be discussing issues that may bring up emotions (yes, historians do and should have emotions) and sometimes class will be difficult. We will discuss in detail the whats and hows of this as we proceed, but the bottom line is this: be a courteous classmate and an aggressive learner.

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**Course Goals**

1. Students will develop and practice historical skills like evaluating, analyzing, and research assessed through writing, collaboration, presentations, discussions, and tests
2. Students will be able to understand and analyze the discipline of history and how to contribute to the field through an examination of secondary and primary sources
3. Students will be able to examine, analyze, and contribute to discussions, lectures, and readings that enlarge, challenge, reinforce and conflict with current knowledge and rely on broad and specific knowledge of facts including dates and chronology

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**Class Norms/Expectations:**

1. **ABSENCES** - If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make sure that you obtain any missed handouts, assignments, or notes. Check in with your classmates for notes and information. Come and talk to me and we can make a plan together. Before an absence is better, when possible.
2. **GRADING** - In our course, we will use standards based grading. We will discuss more about what this means and how it affects the structure of this course and your approach to learning. Overall, you will have assessments and feedback in each of the following categories: Explain, Synthesize, Reflect, Approach. This will look a little different for every assignment. We will also have assignments that focus on the specific grading and expectations of the AP exam.
3. **EXTRA HELP -** The work we do in this class is important. You can do it. I will help you. I do not read minds, so you must speak up when you need help. Sign up for an appointment with me via email or in person. You are also always welcome to email me, especially with quick questions. The Social Studies and Writing Lab are also great resources from which you can seek help.
4. **HOMEWORK -** Homework must be completed to fully engage in class. Mark up readings or find a way to take useful notes. You can use any note taking strategy as long it demonstrates analysis

and a thorough investigation of the reading so that you can participate in class or assessments on the homework.

5. **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**
    a. **Communication**: Communication is a key factor in us having a successful year together. Any time you have a question, problem, or concern, please come to me or email me. I am always available to schedule a time to talk more and to work with you on a plan. If I do not know what is going on, I cannot help. Email or come to me with concerns/questions you may have.
    b. **Be Respectful and Positive**. Respect, Respect, Respect. Please do not taunt, harass, or talk over other students in the classroom. We will be discussing many controversial issues and topics in this class. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that you respect the beliefs of others even if you disagree. It is vital that everyone can feel that they can speak freely.
    c. **Be Prepared**: Come to class prepared with all class materials, assignments. You must bring your laptop and charger to every class.
    d. **Be on Time**: Be on time to class, and turn work in on time. Do all homework and/or readings on time. This is essential for participating in discussion!
    e. **Ask Questions**: communication is important to have a productive year.
    f. **Effort**: This class requires extensive participation and discussion. The more you put in, the more you will get out of the class.
    g. **Contribute during class discussions** (this includes listening AND speaking).
    h. **Extra Help**: All students are encouraged to come for extra help. If you ever have a question or concern, please see me to address the concern. We are a team and respectful communication is important to have a productive year.

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**Class Materials**

1. You must have your computer for every class. You should ensure that your computer is charged each night.
2. A computer charger should be packed with you in case it is needed during the school day. If necessary you can check in with the technology department however the easiest way to ensure that you have access to a charged computer is to pack your charger in case you need it.
3. Headphones will allow you to watch videos and can be a supportive tool for concentrating for some students. I do not have any for you to use so I suggest you pack a pair for yourself.
4. A folder or binder will be necessary to hold the documents that are distributed in paper format. You should also bring lined paper to each class. Your organization is at your discretion; part of being a successful student is keeping track of your materials and assignments. If you need help developing an organizational system, I am happy to assist.
5. Writing Utensils such as a pencil, pen, and a highlighter should be packed every day.