



*"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."  
- Marcus Garvey*

## Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH)

Fall 2025

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Review the Course Description with your parents and complete the Google Forms: [PARENT FORM](#) and [STUDENT FORM](#). Please complete both by Monday August 12

### Course Description

This is a college level course. As a result, only motivated and disciplined students succeed in this course and on the exam. Students will have to demonstrate their mastery of essential skills and content on college-level exams and essays. This will require a level of hard work and study that is new to many "honors" students. **You must be prepared for a heavy workload; you should plan on at least 10 hours a week.** Some students will struggle as they adjust to the workload, expectations, and pace. Those involved in extracurricular activities, taking additional AP classes, or who are employed should carefully weigh the demands of this course against their other commitments.

**The APUSH Exam:** The APUSH exam will be administered **Friday May 8, 2026**

Section	Question Type	Number of Questions	Timing	% of Exam Score
I	Part A: Multiple-choice questions	55 questions	55 minutes	40%
	Part B: Short-answer questions	3 questions	40 minutes	20%
II	Part A: Document-based question	1 question	60 minutes	25%
	Part B: Long essay question	1 question (chosen from three)	40 minutes	15%

**All students enrolled in this class are expected to take the APUSH exam.** Each AP exam costs about \$100. Scholarships may be available, see Mrs. Deters or your counselor.

### Periods of Study

Period 1 – Clash of Cultures 1491-1607 → combined with Period 2  
 Period 2 – Colonial America 1607-1754  
 Period 3 – Growth of the New Republic 1754-1800  
 Period 4 – Antebellum America 1800-1848  
 Period 5 – Sectional Strife, Disunion and Reconstruction 1844-1877 (End Semester 1)

Period 6 – Forging an Industrial Society 1865-1898  
 Period 7 – America's Emerging World Power 1890-1945  
 Period 8 – The Cold War & the Struggle for Justice at Home 1945-1980  
 Period 9 – Contemporary Times 1980-present

### Important Textbook Information

We are using *America's History for the AP Course* 11th edition by Henretta, Edwards, Hinderaker, and Self. This will be a digital textbook available to students via Clever. Hard copies of the textbook will be available in the classroom.

## **Expectations**

### **Be respectful!**

Let's build a community in our classroom. Show respect to everyone and everything in the classroom. Leave a negative attitude at the door. In particular, please respect others' opinions (which does not mean that you have to agree with them).

### **Be on time!**

You are expected to attend every class meeting on time. Consequences for tardies will be handled per the Vista del Lago policy (in the Student Handbook). Students will need to go to the office, scan their IDs, and get a pass if they are not inside the classroom when the bell rings. Per the school policy, detentions and other disciplinary action will be taken if students are repeatedly tardy.

### **Be prepared to succeed!**

Always give your best effort on all class assignments and activities, these are opportunities to learn, achieve, and grow. Arrive prepared to discuss any assigned readings. You can always access the **PLANNING CALENDAR** to see upcoming exams, activities, and reading due date. Note this is a "living document" that I will alter as needed.

If you have an excused absence you are responsible to contact me to make arrangements to get assignments, make-up quizzes, etc. Work assigned before your absence and due on the day of your absence is still due through Google Classroom on the original due date. You will be given two school days for everyday you were absent for work assigned while you were out. Tests are expected to be made up the day you return unless other arrangements have been made.

### **Be a person of integrity!**

Remember that your personal honor is a very precious and important part of who you are as an individual. While students are encouraged to help each other and work together, cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating occurs whenever a student attempts to take credit for someone else's effort. Cheating can take place in or out of the classroom on anything that has or does not have a point value attached to it.

It is considered cheating when students acquire teacher related material from the Internet or any other outside source to use in any fashion (this includes unauthorized use of AI). It is considered cheating if you copy and paste another's work into your own. It is considered cheating to share a document with a classmate and allow them to use it as their own. Any student found cheating would be subject to consequences as stated in the school *Academic Honesty* policy.

## **Electronic Devices - Chromebooks**

Our curriculum includes a commitment to the appropriate and effective use of technology in the classroom to enhance the quality of student learning. Chromebooks will be used almost daily. To ensure student internet use is appropriate, we will use GoGuardian software to monitor student activity.

**IMPORTANT: Because we will be using the lockdown browser feature for quizzes, you will need to use a school-issued chromebook, not a personal device.**

## **Electronic Devices - Cell Phones**

Per school and district policy, students will not be on cell phones during class. **Phones must be stored in their assigned slot for the duration of the class period.** Students using cellphones in class will have their phones confiscated and sent to the office to be retrieved after school. Class time is precious and should not be wasted by students distracted by their phones.



## **The 4-Point Scale**

The Social Studies Department will be using a 4-Point Scale to assess and communicate student mastery of course material. Please see the explanation below of the grade scale.

### **What do the scores on the 4 point scale mean?**

The scores on the 4 point scale have a very specific meaning. They are:

- **4:** The student demonstrates in-depth understanding of the material by completing advanced applications of the material.
- **3:** The student has mastered the complex, targeted knowledge and skills for the class
- **2:** The student understands the foundational material that supports the targeted learning, but is still working on mastering the complex material for the class.
- **1:** The student is able to demonstrate an understanding of the foundational material for the class with help from the teacher, but still struggles when working independently.
- **0:** Even with assistance from the teacher, the student shows no understanding of the material. A zero will not be given for missing work until the end of the semester.

The intermediate scores of 0.5, 1.5, 2.5, and 3.5 are used to show that a student has shown a partial mastery of the next level of learning. In particular, a score of 0.5 shows that the student has mastered some but not all of the foundational 2 material, a score of 1.5 shows that a student has mastered all of the foundational material with help but only some of it without help, and a score of 2.5 shows that a student has mastered all of the foundational material at 2 level but has only shown partial mastery of the complex, targeted learning at the 3 level.

Powerschool has certain limitations, and teachers have to work within those limitations. When you check your student's grades in PowerSchool, you will see a letter grade and a percent for each class. The letter grade is the same for both the traditional standards based scale, but due to PowerSchool's limitations, the percentages will look different. The chart below shows the alignment between the different scales.

Score	Letter Grade	Equivalent Traditional Percentage	Percentage Shown in PowerSchool
3.8 - 4.0	A+	99	96 - 100%
3.0 - 3.8	A	95	75 - 95%
2.5 - 2.99	B	85	62.5 - 74%
2.0 - 2.49	C	75	50 - 62.4%
1.33 - 1.99	D	65	33 - 49 %
1-1.32	D-	60	25 - 33%
0-1	F	50	0 - 25%

All assessments will be entered based on the 4-point scale using rubrics passed out in class. Using this scale is the best way to address the technical limitations of PowerSchool.



### **Grading**

Both formative and summative assessments will be used for gathering and reporting student achievement. **Formative assessments** (classwork, homework, quizzes) are used for practice, skill development and guiding instruction; they will be assessed and recorded but only make up a small portion of your grade. **Summative assessments** (exams, timed writes) are used as a final measure of student learning at the end of a period of instruction; they will make up a large part of your grade. Grades are calculated by the relative weight given to each category. Grades will be posted regularly in class and on Powerschool.

### **Grading Category Weights**

Formative work: Classwork/Homework/Reading Quizzes: 10%

Summative work: Period Exams/Timed Writes/Projects/Midterm/Final: 90%

**Period Exams** — Each exam will cover all the readings, homework, document investigations, discussions, etc. since the previous exam. Students who know they will be absent on the day of an exam (including field trips) must inform the instructor several days prior to arrange an alternate time. If you earn a grade on an exam that you would like to improve and demonstrate mastery, you may complete a retake on the exam. (See *Missing Assignments and Retakes* below.) Exams will consist of multiple choice questions and short-answer questions.

**Timed Writes (Essays & SAQs)** —The largest part of the Advanced Placement exam is the written portion. Therefore, considerable time will be spent learning and practicing how to write effectively. It is anticipated that for each Period there will be an in-class “timed write.” These essays will be similar to the type given on the APUSH exam and will be graded on the same 7 point AP scale for DBQs and 6 point AP scale for long essays that are used by College Board.

**Quizzes** – Short assessments will be taken regularly to assess your mastery of the reading assigned for homework. These may vary in length and style.

**Classwork and Homework** — These are daily assignments that will consist of text reading, document analysis, group work, video analysis, internet work, one-minute essays, etc.

**Midterm and Final Exam** — All students will take a cumulative midterm at the end of the first semester and a final exam prior to the AP exam in May

### **Missing Assignments and Retakes**

Students who are missing or earn a low score on a formative assessment will be allowed a limited opportunity to make those up. These assignments must be turned in within two days of the due date or before the exam (whichever comes first). Students who continually submit work after the deadlines will be called to a parent conference. **All formative assignments must be turned in and earn a score of at least a B in order to retake the exam.**

Students will be given an additional opportunity to demonstrate mastery for each Period exam. Following each Period exam, students will analyze his/her results to determine which Learning Target areas he/she needs to relearn and then retest. Students complete their Learning Target sheet and a Retake Form in order to retake an exam. If a student chooses to use this process to demonstrate mastery of the content, they may improve an original score of 2.5 or lower up to a (3). As all 3s are As students who receive a score of 3 or higher cannot improve upon that score. Unit exams can be retaken once. Midterms and Final exams may not be retaken.

### **Communication**

I am available during Flex and before school for anything that cannot be taken care of in class. Please arrange an appointment ahead of time. I can be contacted at [sdeters@fcusd.org](mailto:sdeters@fcusd.org). Parents, I encourage you to use Power School and check in with your students on their Google Classroom to stay updated on the class and your student's progress. Besides checking grades, you can see class calendars and in many instances get missed work. It is very important that your parents sign up on Powerschool. I use it to email updates and announcements throughout the year. Additionally, I will be using Parent Square when that is up and running.

I look forward to the exciting and challenging term ahead of us!