2016-17 APUSH Syllabus

Northwest School of the Arts

Alan.vitale@cms.k12.nc.us

**Course Overview:** APUSH is equivalent to a college-level class requiring strong reading and writing skills, and a ability to complete independent study. This course is a year-long survey of United States history from the Age of Exploration to the present day. This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement Exam given on May 5th of 2017 when students will seek to earn college credit with passing scores of 3, 4 or 5 (out of 5). Many top tier colleges like UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke require a 4 or better. Most other colleges accept a “3”. A “2” or lower offers no benefit. It’s impossible to earn a zero, so let’s not try that.

**TEXTBOOK**: The text for this class requires an advanced reading level. It is the student’s responsibility to read assigned chapters. Because of time constraints, **not all assigned reading can be discussed in class**. There’s just too much to cover with in class lectures. So seriously, do the assignments.

Text 1 - Henretta, Edwards, Self, Et al,*America’s History*, 8th Edition. Bedford St. Martins, Boston

Text 2- Bailey, Thomas, & David Kennedy.The American Pageant: A History of the Republic, 13th edition. Houghton Mifflin Company.

**SUPPORT MATERIALS**: Students are strongly encouraged to use a guidebook. There are many publishers but the best examples may be AMSCO REA, Kaplan, 5 Steps to a 5 or Princeton Review.

North Carolina U. S. History Review by the ABC Book Company (It will cost about $10.00 with shipping and e-book but is worth every penny). This guide is a tremendously helpful resource at simplifying history after 1787.

**Required Materials:**

Materials: Students are required to have a 2 inch, **3-ring binder** exclusively for this class. Notebooks are subject to a spot checks to make sure you are organized.

**Testing:**

-There will be a minimum of four formal grades each quarter. Expect SURPRISE quizzes on the textbook readings. The assessment format will include every type of question you can imagine. Formal grades count for 70% of your grade. That probably means Informal assignments will comprise the other 30%.

**Late Work Policy**:

• 1) Students are expected to turn in all work when due. Students will be allowed a maximum of (5) days for an EXCUSED absence and points may be deducted. It is the **student’s obligation** to approach the teacher immediately when they return. (CMS Policy).

•2) Students with UNEXCUSED absences who do not turn in their assigned work will be penalized under CMS policy.

• 3) Students who miss a chapter/ unit test must make it up at a mutually acceptable time within a maximum of 5 days per CMS policy. That means you and I have to find a good time to do it. That’s not going to happen while you’re supposed to be in another teacher’s class.

• 4) Grading is final at the close of each grading period. **Do not wait** to discuss a questionable grade! Come to me early with concerns, requests, bribes, extra credit, etc.

**Cell Phone Policy**:

Except for approved activities, cell phones CAN NOT be used in class. This is a **BIG DEAL** for me. Just ask prior students. Any phone even sitting out on a desk without permission will result in the phone being picked up and potentially turned over to the Principal’s office for parent retrieval. While we encourage technology in the classroom at times, camera/texting/web access has become ubiquitous. If you don’t know what that means and you want to look it up on your phone, you’ll understand. If you have a special need, ask me first…I’ll work with you.

**Lecture and Discussion**: Students will be responsible for taking notes and participating in class discussions of events, issues, supplemental reading assignments, and visual aids (paintings, political cartoons, photographs) Pretending to be interested helps too.

**Quizzes**: Quizzes will be given at random. Some quizzes may not be counted at the teacher’s discretion. Pre-quizzes will not be given because there is no such thing.

**Essays/DBQ’s**: Students will be assigned essays throughout the year. The purpose is to improve historical writing skills before the AP test, not necessarily to make you a better writer. Accordingly, some essays will be timed to help you prepare for the Hobgoblin who times you during the AP exam.

**Research:**

Throughout the year, students will research topics and present their findings in a variety of ways including group presentations, formal debates, graphic organizers, essays, charts and posters, or a mock trial. Do your part.

Nobody like a freeloader.

**Final Exam**: At the completion of the course, CMS has kindly offered to pay all students’ AP exam fees. This is a new policy and underscores the commitment expected from all participating students. Don’t be like Eminem and blow your opportunity because the next time it won’t be free.

**Videos and DVD’s**: Everyone likes watching a movie. Hollywood is way more interesting than most teachers. If you don’t want to sit by yourself in the rain while the rest of the class is watching one, a permission form will be required, (whether in-class or for “Movie Nights”). Your guardian’s signature below signifies their consent to this content. Some possible selections include, but are not limited to:

“The Century” with Peter Jennings. ABC News

“First Invasion- The War of 1812”. The History Channel

“The American Revolution” parts 1 and 6. A&E

“The Civil War” parts 1 and final episode. Ken Burns, PBS.

--Saving Private Ryan, Last of the Mohicans, The Patriot, and others

**CLASS SCHEDULE**: Classes meet daily and follow the CMS schedule. Please arrive on time. A student more than 45 minutes late is marked absent. If a student misses more than 10 classes/academic year, he/she cannot pass under North Carolina law without remediation. **My experience is that students who miss class are most likely to fail.** Make-up is possible in cooperation with the teacher per CMS policy. Going on a vacation or getting up late are not considered good reasons to miss a class.

By signing, student and parent agree to abide by the expectations set forth above.

Parent/Guardian NAME (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student NAME: (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_