

2019-20 APUSH Syllabus

Northwest School of the Arts

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Course Overview: APUSH is a college-level class requiring strong reading and writing skills, and an ability to work independently. This course surveys United States history from the Age of Exploration to the present day and culminates in an Advanced Placement Exam given on May 11th of 2018. Passing scores of 3, 4 or 5 (out of 5) may grant college credit although top tier colleges like UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke require a 4 or better. A "2" or lower offers no benefit..

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. So seriously, do the assignments or you will miss stuff you need to know.

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. Prior classes strongly recommend the AMSCO United States History, 2018 Edition.

If you want additional help beyond AMSCO, try REA, Kaplan, "5 Steps to a 5" or the Princeton Review if money is no object.

North Carolina U. S. History Review by the ABC Book Company (It costs about \$10.00 although it's no longer published. It can sometimes be found online and it's still it's worth every penny as its tremendously helpful at simplifying history after 1787.)

Required Materials:

Materials: Students are required to have a (1+ inch), **3-ring binder** exclusively for this class. "*Exclusively*" means you don't cram math or English assignments into your HISTORY notebook. To keep you honest, there will be spot notebook checks. This means you shouldn't leave it under your desk when the bell rings as you race for the door.

Grading:

-There will be a numerous formal grades each quarter. Expect SURPRISE quizzes on textbook readings. Assessments can include every type of question you can imagine. Formal grades count for 70% of your grade. Unless you are bad at math, that probably means Informal assignments comprise the other 30%.

Late Work Policy:

- 1) Students are expected to turn in 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 test must make it up at an acceptable time within 5 days per CMS policy. That means you and I have to find a good time to take it. That's not going to happen while you're supposed to be in another teacher's class, so after-school is the way to go.
- 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, etc. Bribes must be large enough for me to retire, so do the work right the first time.

Cell Phone Policy:

Except for approved activities, cell phones CANNOT 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 Chrome Book technology in the classroom at times, camera/texting/phone access has become ubiquitous. If you don't know what that means and your first inclination is to look it up on your phone, that's what it means. If you have a special need, ask me first...I'll work with you. Per CMS policy, theft, loss or forgetting your phone are not the responsibility of the teacher or school.

Lecture and Discussion: Students are responsible for taking notes and participating in class discussions. This is not like prior classes when you can skip work and still get an "A"%. Like Gandalf said in the Lord of the Rings, "You shall not PASS... (at least without doing the work and paying attention). Drawing pictures is not helpful unless your pictures resemble words in an essay format.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given at random. Some quizzes may not be counted at the teacher's discretion. Some may count double. Sorry, but it helps me make sure you did the readings and DID NOT simply copy a friend's work.

Essays/DBQ's: Students will be assigned essays throughout the year. The purpose is to improve historical writing skills and to make you a better writer. Some essays may be timed to help you prepare for the troll-like creatures who issue the AP exam. Rumors of slower students being eaten are blatantly untrue.

Work Ethic:

Throughout the year, students may complete group presentations, debates or a mock trial. Do your part. Nobody like a freeloader. Especially teachers.

Academic Honesty: All work must be your own. Any time you use another person's words, answers or ideas, you must give proper credit to that person by citing their work. I assume that you are all honest so resist the urge to copy your friend's answer, thereby tipping me off that you have both cheated. That means they lost their grade for a dumb mistake. **This is a serious issue.**

Final Exam: At the completion of the course, CMS has kindly offered to pay all students' AP exam fees. The tests are expensive so don't be like Eminem in 8 Mile and miss your opportunity because if you don't take the final, it won't be free. You'll be charged a fee.

Videos and Class Activities: Everyone likes watching a movie. Hollywood is more interesting than a lecture. If you don't want to shiver outside while the rest of the class is enjoying a cool movie clip, ask your guardian to sign the syllabus permission below. Your guardian's signature below signifies their consent to historical movie content and participation in activities like planting crops, picking cotton, corn or digging up potatoes (to understand the economics of American agriculture) and making colonial foods. Some possible movie 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 40 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.** Going on a vacation or waking up at noon are not valid reasons to miss a class. Seriously, vacations are not an excused absence. We all love them but you are still responsible for finishing the work.

Closing Thoughts:

It's ok to be nervous, anxious, or uneasy about any class...at first. Work through your fears and you will find APUSH not as hard as you thought. Most of the students last year finished with an "A" or "B" and passed the AP exam. So tie your shoes, grab your lunch and remember, "you have nothing to fear but fear itself". You & I are in this together.

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

Student NAME: (Please Print) _____ Date _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian name (Please Print) _____ Date _____

Signature _____

