

Social Studies

United States History

Welcome to United States History. This is mandatory class that covers U.S. History from colonial period to the present. It is an essential part of your education to engage in studies that help you to understand the world we live in, and how it came to be. United States History is a key component of your education. Names and dates are only the beginning of history. The most important part is to be able to answer why. In my opinion, there is no other class more relevant to you. United States History has the ability to humanize us more than any course you will take in school.

The main objectives of this course are for you to become better readers, writers, and critical thinkers. 9th Grade is an important year, and you should get off to a strong start. Regardless of your career aspirations you will need certain academic skills to succeed. Working throughout the year to improve these skills will take effort on your part. You will be challenged to answer difficult questions each day. You will have assignments to complete each week. I know that each of you can do it. I know that you will give your best each day.

Academic Expectations:

- Increase vocabulary (there are over 400 terms – people & events)
- Develop and improve writing skills (structure & substance) Regents – 2 Essays Thematic & DBQ Essay
- Improving Interpretation of Primary Sources
- Improving study habits and organizational habits
- Master a broad body of historical topics

“History is important. If you don't know history it is as if you were born yesterday. And if you were born yesterday, anybody up there in a position of power can tell you anything, and you have no way of checking up on it.”

-Howard Zinn

AP United States History

Welcome to AP US History! Over the course of this year you will be challenged to question and understand our nation's complex history from pre-Columbian societies to Barack Obama's domestic and foreign policies. As we explore the major events in our history, you will be asked to learn more than names, facts, and dates. Instead, you will be pushed to comprehend the causes and effects of the major US historical events.

I want to stress that this history course is not a platform for me to enlighten you with what I believe American history to be. This course is designed for each of you to examine multiple perspectives of what we are studying in order for each of you to come to your own conclusion about what happened in our past and why it happened the way it did. I want every student to learn to question historical interpretations and develop justifications for theories you may create.

While we have an enormous amount of history to cover in one year, I hope that every student comes out of the course with a better understanding of how and why we, as Americans in the early 21st century, are where we are today.

Your success in this class and on the AP exam will be determined by your effort and determination over the course of the year. My job in this class is to prepare you for the AP exam, but I see it as more than that—I am working to prepare you for college and success later in life. You will be challenged this year to become a better writer, thinker, and worker. If you are not up for the challenge of working at the highest of levels, this is not the class for

you. I guarantee that if you put in the effort consistently throughout the year, you will be a better student and thinker because of it.

AP Government and Politics

Advanced Placement (AP) Government and Politics is a college level course that explores the political theory and everyday practice that direct the daily operation of the U.S. government and shape our public policies. It will also provide the scholars with an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and analysis of specific examples. The course objectives go well above a basic analysis of how the U.S. government works. Scholars will develop a critical understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system, as well as a citizen's rights and responsibilities.

AP Government and Politics (APGOPO) is taught on a college level and it requires a substantial amount of reading and preparation for every class. In order to be successful in a course of this type, scholars need to maximize their time, through proper organization and time management skills to complete all assigned reading prior to class discussion. In addition to the survey text, scholars will be required to read supplemental reading assignments. Scholars who take this course should note that they will be required to do 1 to 2 hours of homework each night mostly consisting of reading course materials, and keeping up with current news and events happening nationally and worldwide. The express purpose of this course is to prepare scholars to take the AP Exam for U.S. Government and Politics on May 4, 2017.