

2016-2017 APUSH Syllabus

Advanced Placement United States History

Don Anderson, Susan Elledge, Amber Perry, and Rebecca Richardson

The Course:

This course is designed to teach students to think critically about the issues that have confronted and influenced the United States through a process that integrates the examination of factual knowledge, the development and application of analytic skills, and the assessment of primary and secondary sources. This class is the equivalent of an introductory college survey course in U.S. history, and its content spans the discovery and settlement of the New World to the present.

From the 2015 revised framework: “The AP U.S. History course focuses on developing students’ understanding of American history from approximately 1491 to the present. The course has students investigate the content of U.S. history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods (analyzing primary and secondary sources, making historical comparisons, chronological reasoning, and argumentation) employed by historians when they study the past. The course also provides seven themes (American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society) that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places.”

AP United States History students will:

- Develop thinking skills and enduring understandings necessary to deal critically with the main issues and documents of U.S. history
- Prepare for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses
- Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources—their relevance, historical context, authorship, intention, point of view, their reliability, and their importance — and weigh the evidence and interpretations of the past presented as well as comparing and synthesizing varying viewpoints.
- Arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in an essay format, displaying mastery of historical thinking skills and thematic understandings of course content.
- Work effectively with others to analyze history.
- Prepare for the AP exam in May. This test will cost around \$90, and will be given in May of 2017.

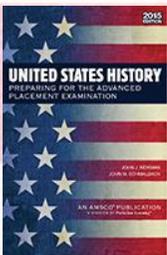
There is no pre-requisite for AP US history, but students must be committed to hard work. The course covers approximately 500 years of US history, more than twice the content of the grade-level course, so it is quite challenging and fast paced. College admission boards also recognize this, and they look favorably at students who choose to complete AP coursework. Grades earned in AP US history are weighted (5.0 scale rather than 4.0), so GPA reflects the higher level work.

Further information regarding this course can be found at:

<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-us-history-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

Textbooks & Supplemental Reading

Each student will be issued a college level electronic textbook, *By the People: A History of the United States AP® Edition*, by James Fraser ©2016. Students will have access to hard cover textbooks in the classroom, but they will not be issued a hard cover text.



Optional United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination by John J. Newman (2016 revised edition) published by AMSCO.

This title is hard to find at local bookstores, and prices are high on Amazon... order it directly from the publisher for approximately \$18 (plus shipping). **Order SOON** as they will soon be inundated with orders and delivery time will be extended (this happens every year after school starts).

To Order through the AMSCO website: <http://www.amsco.com/us-history-preparing-for-ap-exam>

Students will also be given primary and secondary sources (essays, articles, documents, etc.) within each unit. These may be used in class discussions, debates, document analysis, cooperative activities, or essay preparation. Sources will be provided in class or on the CANVAS class page.

APUSH TUTORING

Students may attend tutoring with any APUSH teacher. Other times are available by appointment.

Mr. Don Anderson
F244

Mrs. Elledge
F250

Ms. Perry
F242

Mrs. Rebecca Richardson
F246

☺ ☺ ☺	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7:30-8:00	Anderson F244	Anderson F244	Anderson F244	Anderson F244	No Tutoring
1 st period 8:15-9:15	Richardson F246	No Tutoring	Richardson F246	No Tutoring	No Tutoring
8 th period 2:30-3:30	No Tutoring	Perry F242	No Tutoring	Perry F242	No Tutoring
After School 3:35-4:30	Richardson F246	Richardson F246	Richardson F246	Richardson F246	No Tutoring

Contact Information

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Teacher Expectations

In order to succeed in AP US history and be adequately prepared for the AP exam in May, a considerable time commitment is necessary. Each class period includes 60 to 90 minutes of instruction, assessment, and practice. During class, students are expected to arrive promptly and prepared, participate, and act responsibly. Outside class, students are expected to commit to at least 1 hour of reading, studying, and preparation for each class period.

Other Basic Expectations:

Students will **turn work in on time**...
consistently work hard...
not expect to be spoon fed material...
take responsibility for their own learning...
strive to think like a historian...
back up opinions with evidence...
be honest and do their own work...
communicate and ask for help when needed...
follow school policies.

...and fight fiercely for a 5!



Internet, Canvas, and Skyward Access

Students can log into Canvas at <https://canvas.allenisd.org>. Canvas will be the primary platform for this course. Students will have access to this platform through their personal computer, laptop, iPad/tablet, or smartphone. You may download the Canvas App to smartphones and tablets, however accessing through a browser works better. Students are also encouraged to download either TinyScanner app (or one of many other apps that turn JPEGs into PDFs) in order to turn in written work from a smart phone or tablet.

Students without Internet access at home may access online assignments as well as monitor their progress before or after school in the AHS library. The Allen Public Library also has computers & Internet available. Each student is encouraged to access their Skyward and Canvas accounts regularly. For more information on **Skyward and Canvas Access**, please visit the AISD website. Students with smartphones or tables may also download the **free Skyward and Canvas Apps to their device**.

BYOD – *Bring Your Own Device*

Students are encouraged to bring their device to class each day except for testing days. Students are expected to use their devices for academic purposes only. Texting, playing games, and other non-academic usage will result in consequences consistent with campus policy. Students without a device will have access to computers in the library before or after school.

Grading Categories

There are three grading categories: “Daily,” “Quiz,” & “Test” worth 15%, 35%, and 50% respectively. Daily grades may include online assignments, homework, journal entries (timed writings), and in class activities. Students will have a reading quiz for each chapter. Tests include unit tests which include both multiple choice and essay questions. Tests will include cumulative questions as the course progresses.

Make Up Work

Students are expected to follow campus policy which provides **one day for making up work for each day absent** from class. This day begins with the day the student returns to class. If absent from a reading quiz must make it up **within 24 hours of returning to school**. All make-up quizzes must be completed before the unit test is taken. If a student is absent for a test, they are expected to consult their unit calendar for the **scheduled make-up date**, which is usually one week after the test is originally administered.

Late Work

Allen ISD policy for AP/IB courses states that **late work may earn a maximum of 60% and may only be turned in ONE day late (24 hours... not until next block)**. Assignments more than one day late will not be accepted. Students with special circumstances are encouraged to communicate with their teacher to see if an individualized plan is warranted

Revising and Resubmitting

Students earning grades below 70% on daily activities, homework assignments, quizzes, and/or tests will have opportunities to revise and resubmit. For daily and quiz grades, revisions can raise the grade up to 70%. For multiple choice tests, which are curved, all students will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit in order to earn the “bonus curve,” adding additional points to their test grade. Students earning below 80% on essay tests may revise and resubmit for a new grade up to 80%. All revisions will be submitted through Canvas. **Daily grades and quizzes must be resubmitted before the date of the respective unit test unless special arrangements are made with the teacher.** Late work may not be revised. Semester exams may not be revised.

Do or do not! There is no try!



Curves

Because of the high level of difficulty and the ranking style of scoring for College Board exams, curves may be administered on quizzes or tests. After scores are analyzed for each assessment, the APUSH team will determine if a curve is warranted and what the scale of the curve will be. All curves will be applied equally to all APUSH classes.

Study groups

Students are encouraged to form a study group for APUSH. Working with peers from class or from other classes/teachers is a valuable method of studying and reviewing as long as students don't just "divide and conquer." Remember, there is a difference between "doing" and "learning!"

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes -- but is not limited to -- copying the work of another student, plagiarizing work from Internet or other source, using phone during assessments, and unauthorized communication between students during assessments.



Image captured from: wordpress.com/

Should a student engage in academic dishonesty, the student will lose credit for the assignment as well as earn an office referral. Parents will also receive notification of the event. (See AHS Honor Code for more details.)

**Real integrity is doing the right thing,
knowing that nobody's going to know
whether you did it or not.
Oprah Winfrey**

As-Bs-Cs



APUSH grades are scaled differently than grade level courses. It is important to remember that a **C in APUSH is the equivalent of an A in the grade level course**. Students earning Bs and Cs sometime become stressed, because they think they are doing poorly. Please keep in mind that this is a college level course, and **college admission boards prefer a C in an AP class to an A+ in a grade level class!**

Dropping the Class

Students are **not allowed to drop down to the grade level U.S. history course until the completion of 6 weeks and a minimum of 3 tutoring and intervention sessions with an APUSH teacher**. Students will also have the option of dropping the course at the end of the semester. More information on dropping will be available from students' counselor.

Dropping is discouraged, because the grade level course covers different content than AP. After completing 6 weeks in APUSH, a student dropping down to grade-level will have missed a large chunk of 19th century U.S. history. (APUSH begins in the 1490s while the grade level begins in the 1870s.) Students who drop at semester will have several decades of history to catch up on. This missed content will be included on the state's end of course exam (STAAR), so think carefully before making this decision.

**"You have to have confidence in your ability, and then be tough enough to follow through."
Rosalynn Carter**