

AP US History (APUSH) is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in US history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials – their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability, and importance – and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. The AP US History course will develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format (College Board Course description).

The AP US History course will also train students to analyze and interpret primary sources, including documentary material, maps, statistical tables, and pictorial and graphic evidence of historical events. Students will learn to take notes from both printed materials and lectures/discussions, write essay exams, and write analytical and research papers. They will learn to express themselves with clarity and precision and know how to cite sources and credit the phrases and ideas of others (College Board, 13).

### **Outline for the Course:**

- Period 1: Pre-Colonization America
- Period 2: 1607-1763. Jamestown through the end of the French and Indian War
- Period 3: 1763-1800. The end of salutary neglect through the Federalist Period
- Period 4: 1800-1848. The Era of Jefferson, Jackson, Reform, Industrialization and Manifest  
Manifest Destiny.
- Period 5: 1848-1877. The Causes of the Civil War through Reconstruction
- Period 6: 1865-1898. The American Gilded Age and the Great West
- Period 7: 1898-1945. Imperialism, Progressivism, WWI, Booming 20s and Depressing 30s,  
WWII.
- Period 8: 1945-1980. Cold War
- Period 9: 1980-Now. The Modern Presidencies

### **Structure of the AP US History Exam:**

The APUSH Exam is broken into 4 sections:

- Section 1: 55 Stimulus Driven Multiple Choice Questions (55 Minutes)
- Section 2: 4 Short Answer Questions (40 Minutes)
- Section 3: Document Based Question Essay (DBQ) (60 Minutes)
- Section 4: Long Essay Response (30 Minutes)

**Course Objectives:** Students in APUSH will be able to:

- Evaluate the significance and context of primary and secondary sources
- Synthesize primary and secondary sources into DBQ essays
- Synthesize their knowledge into historical “long” essays
- Apply knowledge to other eras and topics of study
- Compare and contrast points of view

**Grading Policies:** APUSH is designed to mirror the expectations of an entry level college course and the grading scale reflects that expectation:

- Homework (10%): Textbook reading with main idea logs, vocabulary, primary source analysis, work not complete in class. Expect that this category will take you the most time, and will count for the least amount of your grade BUT, WILL DIRECTLY EFFECT YOUR TEST AND ESSAY GRADES
- Tests & Quizzes (45%): Test and quizzes fall under the same category. Quizzes are often intended to help raise test scores and to check that in class expectations are being achieved.
- Essays (45%): Writing in an integral part of the class and the APUSH exam. The essay grade will reflect both essays as well as smaller writing assignments.

**Student Expectations:**

- Prepare to take the APUSH Exam in May 2016
- Bring with you a desire to succeed and a strong work ethic. These 2 things are the most important to success in APUSH.
- Come to class prepared to learn and participate. Attendance is CRUCIAL to success in this course
- Attend HOT lunch both when required and when YOU need help or a place to study.
- Be prepared to take responsibility for your work
- Be prepared to give and receive constructive criticism from your teacher and your peers
- Be organized. We will cover 500 years of history and take notes on all of it!
- Bring a sense of humor. We are serious about your success, but we are not always serious in class!