

A.P. U.S. History

Mr. Aper

Year-long course (2 semesters)

Class Textbook/Materials:

America Past and Present

By: Divine, Breen, Frederickson, Williams

Publisher: Pearson/Longman

6th edition or newer

ISBN: 0-321-09337-2 (6th ed.)

ISBN: 0-321-24380-3 (7th ed.)

ISBN: (8th ed.)

Course Description

A.P. U.S. History is a challenging course that is meant to be **the equivalent of a freshman college course and can earn students college credit**. It is a two semester survey of American History from the age of exploration and discovery to the present. **Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed**. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, interpretation of original documents, and historiography. Training students to handle the free-response section (particularly the DBQ) of the AP Exam in May provides focus for the writing component of the course.

Course Objectives

Students will:

- Master a broad body of historical knowledge
- Demonstrate an understanding of historical chronology
- Use historical data to support an argument or position
- Differentiate between historiographical schools of thought
- Interpret and apply data from original documents, including cartoons, graphs, letters, etc.
- Effectively use analytical skills of evaluation, cause and effect, compare and contrast
- Work effectively with others to discuss and solve problems and produce products
- Prepare for and successfully pass the Advanced Placement Exam

Course Organization

Unit assignments will be listed on the board at the beginning of each week. Test, seminar discussion, and writing assignment due dates will be noted. Students are responsible for keeping up with reading assignments and being aware of, and prepared for all due dates. Classes will be a combination of lecture, group work, coverage of discussion questions, interpreting documents, and answering student questions.

Keys to Success

The reading load for this course is considerable. The amount of time required for homework for this class will vary with your reading speed and comprehension ability. Watch the assignment board and plan ahead for long assignments, supplemental readings, essays, etc. **Time management is an essential skill** for this class, and you must take responsibility for budgeting your time. Remember, this is a freshman level college course and time management is the key to success at any college. If you learn this skill now, it will put you ahead of other students and serve you well in the future. As you become accustomed to the course format and texts, things will fall into place and become easier. **It is important to not get discouraged**. You must think of yourself as an **intellectual athlete**. **With discipline, hard work, and practice, you will achieve one of the most significant academic/intellectual accomplishments of your life**.

Attendance

Attendance in this class is essential. Much of the material for success is provided through lecture and class discussion. Missing class, even for excused absences, can create problems. If you do have to miss, make sure you keep up with any reading/writing assignments, obtain any class notes, and see me when you return to get any materials handed out during your absence.

Grades

Students' grades in this course will be based on their performance on objective tests, short format essays, document based essays, thesis statements, answers to written questions, five and five papers, and seminar discussions. There will not be many opportunities for extra credit, so students should put all of their energy into the required work. A standard point system will be used and applied to the school grading scale. Final grades are then weighted for the purpose of class rank.

Office Hours

If at any time you feel you do not understand the material, please ask for assistance. It is my goal to make sure that you have every opportunity to do your best work. If you need to contact me outside of class for extra help, I am available at the following times:

You may also contact me at home by phone or email at: