

Advanced Placement U. S. History – Ms. Sigmon/Ms. Wells
Room 239

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What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places--and there are so many--where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction. --Howard Zinn

AP U.S. History is a demanding introduction to American History and culture that assumes a high level of interest and competence. The analytical thinking, writing, and reading skills that you develop in AP U.S. History will equip you for college and lifelong learning.

In order to succeed, you need to be motivated to study and to be able to keep up with the demands of a college-level course. By taking the AP Exam at the end of the course, you have the opportunity to demonstrate that they have, indeed, learned college-level material and are prepared to enter advanced college courses.

AP U.S. History integrates political, social, economic, cultural, diplomatic, and intellectual history in order to convey the experiences of particular groups within the broader perspective of the American past. At the same time, it connects events and issues from the past to the concerns of the present. History shows Americans continuously adapting to new developments as you shape the world in which you live. Often, ordinary Americans from a diverse range of backgrounds are thrust into extraordinary circumstances and the result is an exciting study in the "American experiment." As you study this long-term process, you will also encounter the unexpected -- unique events, unintended outcomes, and singular individuals. A strong course that prepares you to become "students of history" will include the following Themes for emphasis:

- American and National Identity
- Politics and Power
- Work, exchange, and technology
- Culture and Society
- Migration and settlement
- Geography and the environment
- America in the World
- Incorporating the following periods: 1 – 1491-1607; 2-5 – 1607-1877; 6-8, 1865-1980 and period 9 – 1980-present.

Typically, a course in AP U.S. History will include a quality college-level text and access to primary documents (in texts, in libraries, or on the Web). In general, the first semester will begin with early colonization in the 1500s and 1600s and end with Reconstruction or the late 1800s. The second semester will cover the period from the early twentieth century to the present. In addition to the historical content you will be able to analyze and interpret historical documents, assess the validity of historical propositions and build an effective argument, to practice writing skills frequently in order to prepare you for the free response section of the examination. The coursework needs to be completed by the first part of May to allow time for a review of material for the AP U.S. History Exam in May.

Course Textbook:

America's History – Main Textbook

Enduring Vision – sometimes used in the classroom

United States History – Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination (Red, White and Blue book) 2020 edition

Inside the Classroom:

AP U.S. History will be comprised of reading, writing, discussions, and projects related to U.S. History. You need to come to class prepared for discussion. As a class, you will run discussions about concepts in US History based on your reading assignments. You will be allowed to vocalize and use your voice in order to work through the trials and tribulations of our history. As a student, you are responsible for keeping up with reading assignments, if you don't – class discussions will be boring, meaningless, and teacher centered. You need to keep up with writing and projects and be prepared for quizzes and tests. Class will be a combination of lecture, group work, coverage of discussion questions and timelines.

Grading Rules:

Your grades are on a weighted scale, 20% homework/Cornell notes, 50% Celebration of Knowledge/LEQ's, 30% other assignments.

Tests:

Tests –or Celebrations of Knowledge – will be formatted in the new AP style with stimulus based multiple choice questions and short answer question. Long essay and document based writing assignments will be assessed separately.

Study Techniques:

The reading load is considerable. Each student is expected to read all text material; you are responsible for understanding all of the material for testing. The amount of time required for homework in this class varies with your reading and writing speed and ability. I use Edsby & Remind to update due dates on assignments and they are always listed on the left hand side of my board.

Homework Policy:

In order to be successful in this course, and to cover the 500 years we must cover this year, homework will be given almost every night. **DO NOT COPY or PLAGERIZE or CHEAT** on your homework assignments – **I WILL USE THE HONOR COUNCIL.**

Late Work:

If an assignment is due on a particular date, I expect it to be turned in on that date. If you turn it in cycle late, 10% will be deducted from that grade, if it is turned in cycles - late, 25% will be deducted from your grade – **I will not accept the assignment after the 2nd late cycle – IT WILL BE A ZERO.**

Make-up work:

It is your responsibility as the student to see me regarding your make-up work if you are absent. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE do not ask me at the beginning of class. There are several opportunities during class work or during group work that you will have the opportunity to visit me and ask for your make-up work. Also, do not wait until the end of the class period – there is ALWAYS time during class to see me. Again, it is your responsibility; I will not visit you to give you your make-up work.

Personal Business:

Please take care of **personal business** during class changes or at lunch – but if you need to go, sign out at the red table and– NEVER when I am lecturing, giving instructions or if your class mates are presenting.. DO NOT complete any other teacher's homework in my class – consequences are it will be ripped up and thrown away.

Classwork:

As emphasized in your SUMMER ASSIGNMENT you will need a large spiral notebook – at least 150 pages or more – for your interactive notebook. **YOU WILL BE REQUIRED to TAB or FLAG** each chapter. You cannot type any assignment unless approved or requested by Ms. Sigmon.

Supplies

Pens: blue or black ink only for class work. You will need a red pen – or other colors - for peer grading writing assignments. Highlighters are needed for LEQ's. Your large notebook, and your Red, White and Blue book.

Honor Council:

DO NOT CHEAT – is academically dishonest, you are scholars and will be our future leaders, and you do not want this scar to be on your records when you fill out college applications.

Remind:

2019-20 Remind – you are required to subscribe to my REMIND service. You will want to for changes in assignment due dates and reminders to bring items to class. Text to number 81010 and send the following message: @646h9d or alternatively subscribe from a computer with the web address as <https://www.remind.com/join/646h9d>

My Schedule: I am available before school from 6.25 – 7.15 for tutoring, make-up work and for conferencing. My JA's are blocks 14 and 24.

THE AP EXAM:

Question Type:	Number of:	Time:	% of exam
Multiple Choice	55	55 minutes	40%

Short Answer questions	3	40 minutes	20%
Document Based Question	1	60 minutes	25%
Long Essay Question	1	40 minutes	15%

PERIODS:

Period One: Pre Columbian Contacts (1491 – 1607)	5%
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Period Two: Colonial Settlement and Expansion (1607 – 1754)	
Period Three: Revolution and Constitutional Origins (1754 – 1800)	
Period Four: Early National Period (1800 – 1848)	
Period Five: Sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction (1844 – 1877)	45%
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Period Six: Imperialism and Economic Expansion (1865 – 1898)	
Period Seven: Progressivism and U.S. Imperialism (1890 – 1945)	
Period Eight: The Cold War Era (1945 – 1980)	45%
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Period Nine: United States and Globalization (1980 – Present)	5%