

AP US History

Mr. Pryor

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to provide a college-level experience and preparation for the AP Exam in May. An emphasis is placed on interpreting documents, mastering a significant body of factual information, and writing critical essays. Topics include life and thought in colonial America, revolutionary ideology, constitutional development, Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy, nineteenth-century reform movements, and Manifest Destiny. Other topics include the Civil War and Reconstruction, immigration, industrialism, Populism, Progressivism, World War I, the Jazz Age, the Great Depression, the New Deal, World War II, the Cold War, the post-Cold War era, and the United States at the beginning of the twenty-first century. This course will fulfill the United States history graduation requirement.

In addition to the topics listed above, the course will emphasize a series of key themes throughout the year. These themes have been determined by the College Board as essential to a comprehensive study of United States history. The themes will include discussions of American diversity, the development of a unique American identity, the evolution of American culture, demographic changes over the course of America's history, economic trends and transformations, environmental issues, the development of political institutions and the components of citizenship, social reform movements, the role of religion in the making of the United States and its impact in a multicultural society, the history of slavery and its legacies in this hemisphere, war and diplomacy, and finally, the place of the United States in an increasingly global arena. The course will trace these themes throughout the year, emphasizing the ways in which they are interconnected and examining the ways in which each helps to shape the changes over time that are so important to understanding United States history.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Prepare successfully for the AP U.S. History Exam
- Develop and effectively use analytical skills of evaluation, cause and effect, compare and contrast
- Understand and show historical chronology
- Master a broad general knowledge of American History
- Interpret information from primary source documents
- Work effectively with others to produce products (such as original DBQ's, PowerPoint presentations, review sheets for the entire class) and solve problems

COURSE TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS:

The American Pageant: 16th Edition

United States History: Preparing for the AP US History Exam (revised edition)

GRADES:

- 1) I have set Q to calculate your letter grade based on an accumulation of points in the following **weighted categories**:

Quizzes & Unit Tests = 35%

Homework & Classwork Assignments = 35%

FINAL EXAM = 20%

Behavior & Participation = 10%

- 2) I have also set Q to assign letter grades according to the following percentages:

89.5% = A, 79.5% = B, 69.5% = C, 59.5% = D, less than 59.5% = F

(I will add plus and minus marks at my discretion.)

ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1) GENERAL: I will assign several tasks you will need to complete both inside and outside of class in preparation for every quiz and exam. **Chapter assignments shall be written by hand** and due by the date on the Unit Calendar.
- 2) LATE WORK POLICY: **Late assignments are not accepted**. This is an Advanced Placement class and is designed to provide the same level of content and instruction that students would face in a freshman-level college survey class. If you are **ABSENT**, assignments are due on the day you return or **NO CREDIT!**
- 3) DO YOUR OWN WORK: Assignment answers which are worded substantially the same as those of another student (either past or present), our textbook, or any online sources will receive no credit and be reported to the school administration to handle as a form of Academic Dishonesty. **BE SURE TO PUT YOUR ANSWERS IN YOUR OWN WORDS.**
- 4) **NO USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)**: The expectation for this class is that ALL of your academic work will be of your own original creation, **WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF ANY FORM OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** (including but **NOT** limited to Magic School). Violation of this policy will result in receiving no credit for your work and will also be reported to the school administration to handle as a form of Academic Dishonesty.

ATTENDANCE:

- 1) GENERAL: I expect regular and punctual attendance of all students. In Q I will mark any student who is not in their seat when the bell to begin class stops ringing as either absent or tardy.
- 2) TARDY POLICY: I strongly encourage you to get to class on time as being on time is an important habit to develop. If you do happen to be late, I ask you not to interrupt the class, and do not be disruptive.
- 3) ABSENCE POLICIES: Whenever you miss class, you miss a lot. **BEFORE** you return it is **YOUR** responsibility to get from **CLASSMATES** what you missed. Network with people who will, when you are absent, pass on info about any new upcoming assignments, and pick up an extra copy of any papers I may have passed out. Don't return to class without knowing exactly what you missed and having in your possession copies of exactly what you need.
- 4) I always publish/announce the dates of upcoming quizzes and tests well in advance. This being the case, if you are present in class on a quiz or test day, I will require you to take this assessment and turn in all assignments which are due as scheduled, **REGARDLESS** OF ANY PREVIOUS ABSENCES YOU MAY HAVE HAD.
- 5) If you miss a unit test, I will require you to take a make-up test during an appointment time which we agree upon via email before you return to school. **REGARDLESS OF THE REASON FOR YOUR ABSENCE, YOU ARE STILL EXPECTED TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT ALL ASSIGNED WORK.**

BREAK TIME POLICIES:

- 1) As most of our class periods are at least 100+ minutes long, we will almost always take a 5 or so minute break in the middle of the class period. **THIS IS A NOT A RIGHT, IT IS A PRIVILEGE** which I will allow just as long as it is not abused.
- 2) This is your chance to visit with your classmates, relax, or use your computer for purposes of your choosing. The expectation is that you will go back to your own seat immediately when the break is over.
- 3) This is also your **ONLY** chance to use the restroom during class time. There are 2 hall passes on lanyards hanging on hooks near the front door. Each pass is good for 1 person – for a maximum of 2 people out of class at one time.

- 4) As break time is short, the expectation is that if you leave the room, you will go directly to the restroom, take care of your business and come directly back – so that others in class may also have the chance to go.
- 5) If you are going to leave the classroom during break time, you **MUST** leave your phone in the classroom. You may **NOT** take it out of the room with you.
- 6) Without asking for and getting permission you are **NOT ALLOWED TO GO ANYWHERE OTHER THAN THE RESTROOM** (for example, your locker, the office, your car, any other classrooms, to a hang out with friends, etc.).
- 7) Violating any of these break time policies will result in you losing the privilege to leave the classroom, and possibly even to an end of mid-period class break time for everyone the remainder of the semester.

BEHAVIOR & PARTICIPATION:

In Q, I have set the **Behavior and Participation** category to be worth 10% of your overall grade for the semester. Everyone starts the semester with 90/100 in this category. You can earn 100% of the possible points by successfully completing various participation-based assignments and activities, or you can lose points for negative conduct. I will take points away for various infractions including, but not limited to the following:

- a) showing disrespect for others (including **talking out of turn**);
- b) requiring a seat change for breaking the rule listed directly above; c) failing to come to class with **ALL** the things you need (including your charged Chromebook/computer) to get work done -- your **textbook** may stay either in your locker or at **home**;
- d) bringing food or drink into the classroom – only **WATER** in a **CLOSED** container kept on the **FLOOR** is allowed;
- e) having visible **ANY** electronic device (cell phone, headphones, air pods, Chromebook/computer, etc.) **at times which I have not authorized**. f) violating the break time policies as outlined above.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT:

I offer in-person academic support in my classroom during assigned support periods. You may contact me privately via email (epryor@opusd.org) or through Google Classroom.