

AP US History

~Course Guidelines and Overview~

Instructor: Mr. Schaefer

Room #: 508

School/year: Olympia H. S. 2014-2015

About the course: You are now enrolled in a college-level course in American History. The teaching and study techniques have been chosen to prepare you to do college work; the examinations, papers, quizzes, and projects are similar to those given in most universities. The course has been planned to introduce you to these materials and techniques. This course will not be easy, but neither will it be a waste of your time. You are embarking on a demanding intellectual experience, and each of you will gain from it in direct proportion to the amount of effort you expend.

***Important note:** Next May students enrolled in this course will be given the opportunity to take the *Advanced Placement Examination*, a three-hour multiple-choice and essay test created and graded by the College Board (committees of high school and university instructors). The fee for this test is about \$90 (financial aid is available; if this is an issue see me.) If you pass this examination with a creditable mark, and we expect many of you to do so, the examiners will recommend to the college of your choice that you be given credit (3-10 credits) for a college survey course in American History and placement into advanced history courses. Many, but not all, colleges give both placement and credit; some give only placement; others do not acknowledge the Advanced Placement program at all. If you fail to pass this examination you will still have earned your high school credits and will have had the interesting and challenging opportunity to develop your abilities far beyond the level you might have attained in a less demanding course.

Expectations:

1. Approximately *five hours (or more depending on pace of student) per week* outside of class on reading and writing preparation.
2. Come to class *prepared* each and every day! This includes the completion of all written assignments as well as readings for class discussion/participation.
3. Late work will be accepted for half-credit up until the last Friday before finals. Once its late, its late! There are NO test re-takes or homework re-dos.
4. *You are responsible* for work missed during absences. If ill, you will have the number of days missed to make up the work. If you know you are going to be gone (for sports, music, etc.) your assignment is due before you go. **Tests and quizzes** may only be made up for excused absences and must be taken *the day you return*.
5. **Plagiarism** of any sort will not be tolerated and will result in a loss of grade and referral to the OHS discipline policy. This includes copying another student's homework. Be careful!
6. You are expected to refrain from the following in class:
-Profanity -use of cell phones, ipods, etc. -CHEATING
7. OHS attendance and discipline policies will be enforced! See your student handbook.

NEED HELP? *My door will always be open before and after school and personal appointments can be arranged. PLEASE do not hesitate.*

Grading scale: (SCORES ARE NOT ROUNDED!)

A	= 93.33-100%	C+	= 76.67-79.99%
A-	= 90.0-93.32%	C	= 73.33-76.66%
B+	= 86.67-89.99%	C-	= 70.0-73.32%
B	= 83.33-86.66%	D+	= 66.67-69.99%
B-	= 80.0-83.32%	D	= 60.0-66.66%

Assignments, Tests, Essays, etc. . . . are designed to prepare you for the AP Exam and include (but not limited to) the following:

- **Reading: Text** (*The American Pageant*): Because of the vast amounts of knowledge to be covered in such a short time, we will test often. Usually about two chapters of information every 6 or 7 school days. (Study guides will be provided for each chapter).
- **Supplemental:** In addition to our text, one or two articles or documents may be assigned per week. You will be asked to read and analyze the information and refer to the readings in class. These assignments may or may not require written responses, which may or may not be graded. Regardless, you will be held accountable for all assigned reading.
- Because the exam consists of multiple choice questions, short answer responses, long answer responses AND a document based question, our unit essays will consist of various combinations of these assessments and will count for a majority of your grade in this class.
- You will also complete routine reading/writing assignments. While not all written work will be graded, nothing but your best work is expected on EVERY assignment you complete. Peer editing and other methods of enrichment and feedback will be employed.
- Reading will be assigned most every night and various over-night assignments (usually one or two per week) that must be completed before the next class session will be given. These are usually vital to the success of the next lesson and *may or may not* be collected for credit.

AND . . . FINAL EXAM/AP TEST PREP:

Because this is an Advanced Placement class it is important that students taking the AP Exam are as prepared as possible. OHS also requires that all classes include some type of final exam. This is why the AP History course includes a three-week final exam. The schedule for the final will consist of **eight exams (25 points each)** and five study/review periods on alternating days (excluding weekends). It is demanding but very productive!

SUPPLIES/ORGANIZATION:

While I will not require one specific type of binder/folder be kept, I strongly recommend that you use a three-ringed binder to store notes, handouts, and returned assignments. You will be thankful as you prepare for the exam in May.

You are expected to bring paper, pencils and pens to class each day. Your textbook will NOT be required in class so keep it in a safe place at home for daily access.

ALL assignments will be available (and most downloadable) on my class website. Please check the website daily, especially if you are absent.

ALL TYPED ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE PRINTED PRIOR TO COMING TO CLASS.
DO NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO PRINT YOUR ASSIGNMENT IN CLASS.