

Advanced Placement United States History 2017-2018

Instructor and Course Information

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Advanced Placement United States History is a chronological survey of the history of the United States from the pre-colonial period to the present. It is a demanding course whose emphasis goes beyond the memorization of facts to the interpretation and analysis of historical data and writings. Student writing is an important component of the course.

This course is designed to prepare the student to take the Advanced Placement Examination in United States History administered by the College Board in May of each year.

Course Expectations

- **Grading:** The student's academic grade is based on exams and class assignments. The grades are weighted as follows:

Exams:	35%
Essays:	35%
Test Preparation:	30%

*Unless specifically noted, all homework MUST BE TYPED and follow standard writing conventions and formatting. The homework will be posted weekly on the Millennium High School website.

- **Reading:** Each week you will be reading one to three chapters from the class textbooks. These readings are designed for you to gain the basic facts and knowledge necessary to proceed with other activities and readings. In addition, you will read interpretive essays in order to recognize that history is a combination of fact plus interpretation, and primary source documents in order to get a first-hand look at history.

You are expected to read all text material and you are responsible for understanding all of the material for testing. You will be tested on the material approximately once per week. The amount of time required for homework for this class will vary with your reading speed, assignments vary in length. Time management is an essential skill for this class, and you must take the responsibility for budgeting your time.

- **Lecture:** You should be prepared to take notes and play an active role in class discussion. At the beginning of each module there will be a college style lecture that will supplement your weekly reading.

- **Writing:** Approximately once per week you will be writing a DBQ or LEQ and completing a One-Pager note-taking assignment. Essays will be evaluated using the AP writing rubrics.
- **Tests/Quizzes:** Tests and quizzes will be given approximately every other week. Several types of exams will be utilized to help you prepare for the Advanced Placement test: Tests will be comprised of stimulus multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and LEQs. Quizzes will have stimulus multiple-choice questions and/or short answer questions. Your lowest test/quiz grade will be dropped each quarter. (This *does not* include essay tests.) ***Make up tests are given zero period the following day for those with an excused absence or at the earliest agreed upon time.***
- **Required materials:**
 - 3-ring binder with white ruled paper. Put everything in your notebook and don't throw anything away!
 - Binder should be separated into nine sections using dividers.
 - Spiral Notebook (for One-Pagers)
 - Colored Pens (for One-Pagers)
 - Blue and/or Black Pens and Highlighters
 - It is expected that you will write essays and exams in black/blue ink only. No pencil.
- **Attendance:** Attendance in this class is essential. Much of the material for success is provided through lecture/discussion. There will be (1) day for each day missed to make-up work. If the student is going to be gone for an excused school activity, he/she must see me before going on the school activity. Assigned work must be handed in before being gone for an excused activity unless approved by the teacher. It is your responsibility to see me about any make-up work.

Behavior and Discussion Etiquette

In order for a class to function there must be a minimum standard of conduct that must be observed at all times. This is especially true with courses that have active debates, discussions, and the exchange of free and independent thought. This will be the case in our class.

Students shall have the freedom to participate actively when appropriate and learn as much as possible. In order to achieve these ends the following rules are adapted from a set of 116 rules for decent behavior established by Jesuit missionaries and copied by hand by George Washington when he was roughly your age:

- 1. Every action done in company ought to be with some sign of respect to those that are present.**

2. **Sleep not when others speak; speak not when you should hold your peace...When another speaks be attentive yourself and disturb not the audience...If you cough, sneeze, sigh or yawn, do it not loud, but privately.**
3. **Think before you speak...Use not reproachful (obscene) language against anyone, neither curse nor revile...Speak not injurious words neither in jest nor earnest; scoff at none although they give occasion.**
4. **Mock not nor jest at anything of importance.**

Flipped Classroom and Class Participation

This is a nearly 100% flipped classroom.

The Flipped Classroom is an instructional strategy and a type of blended learning that reverses the traditional educational arrangement by delivering instructional content outside of the classroom and moves activities, including those that may have traditionally been considered homework, into the classroom. In a flipped classroom model, students receive didactic instruction (i.e., direct content coverage is done through the reading of the textbook and other articles assigned by the instructor) of content at home and engage in concepts (i.e., historical thinking skills, class discussion, and writing practice) in the classroom with the guidance of the instructor.

You will **NOT** come to class and sit quietly and copy notes from a PowerPoint over content you were supposed to read from your textbook outside of class!

You **WILL** come to class and actively participate in the activities planned for that instructional period, which will follow the following schedule:

1. Individual Writing Warm-Up Activity (normally in the form of a Do Now, Short Answer Question, Historical Interpretation Activity, or a HIPP Analysis).
2. Small Group Work (where you will be required to process the information from outside class readings).
3. Whole Class Debriefing (we will come together as a class and discuss the things that your groups came up with, along with answering questions you might have).
4. Closing Activity (which could be in the form of developing a Thesis statement or Conclusion paragraph from the activities, Contextualization paragraph, or lead into the homework, etc.).

We will cover about a chapter every week (sometimes more). This, however, IS NOT set in stone – some days we will cover a chapter a class period, it depends on the chapter. Please consult the pacing calendar for specific reading assignments and content coverage.

Required Reading:

America's History, Eighth Edition by Henretta, Hinderaker, Edwards, and Self (2014)
Colonial America: A Very Short Introduction by Alan Taylor (2012)

Silverman’s Strategies for Success

1. **Discussion** – Learning is an active process. There are lots of opportunities for you to be an active learner in this class – take advantage of them!
2. Practice Historical Analysis and Interpretation (History is **not** black-and-white and only about memorizing facts).
3. Simulate the difficulty of the AP Exam. Every year over half the students around the country fail the APUSH Exam, it is not an easy test (in fact, it is traditionally one of the most difficult of all the AP Exams). However, the good news is that this class **WILL prepare you for the APUSH Exam in May** if you are willing to do what is asked of you.
4. Embrace being exposed to **A LOT** of information.
5. Learning can be **FUN** as well as **CHALLENGING**. This is not an easy class, but it is a fun class and you need to remember that you chose to be in this class. You will not be asked to do anything that previous students were not asked to do. They survived (and thrived) and so will you.

Scope and Sequence for APUSH

The course sequence and scope can be found on the pacing calendar located on the course website. It is update periodically so if you are curious about what is coming next, check the pacing calendar!

MHS’s 2016-2017 APUSH Scores, Grade Distribution, and Correlation

Grade/Score	1	2	3	4	5	Total
95-100	0					0
90-94	0				1	1
85-89	0			2	8	10
80-84	0		2	3	5	10
75-79	0		1	1	3	5
70-74	0	1	1	1		3
Total	0	1	4	7	17	29

AP Class Mean: 82
 AP Exam Mean: 4.379
 AP Class Median: 81
 AP Exam Median: 5

							Pass Rate
MHS ('17)	0.0%	3.4%	13.8%	24.1%	58.6%	100.0%	96.6%
National ('17)	25.1%	23.5%	22.6%	17.9%	10.9%	100.0%	51%

Important College Board Websites and Information

College Board Website: <http://www.collegeboard.org/>
 College Board Info for Students with Disabilities: <http://professionals.collegeboard.org/testing/ssd>

This overview is subject to change at any time at the discretion of the instructor. Additionally, all Millennium School Rules outlined in the student handbook apply in this class.