

## AP U.S. History syllabus 2021-22

Mr. Hillis

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**Course:** Advanced Placement United States History is a rigorous class and the student will have to set aside time expected to study independently for this class. The critical thinking, study skills, writing skills, analysis, and interpretive skills learned, will be invaluable for the college bound student. Reading is a central to what we do in class.

The approach to this course includes, but is not limited to, the following elements: development of substantial knowledge of social, cultural, political, economic, and military events relevant to the history of the United States; development of assessment and interpretive skills; development of “map skills;” and the development of communicative skills through the writing of coherent, analytical essays. It is not a history course teaching American trivia. You will learn to identify, connect, and defend ideas, a vital and transferable skill to any career. **Keep in mind, getting an ‘A’ will be a challenge. Academic growth is what we are trying to achieve rather than the easy ‘A’.**

### Objectives:

- to accumulate knowledge of historical information
- to research and evaluate primary and secondary source documents
- to recognize chronological events as a cause and effect continuum
- to interpret political cartoons and historical writings
- to interpret charts and maps and draw conclusions from data
- to compare and contrast ideas and be able to debate either side
- to learn the skills necessary to write effectively

**Textbook:** Every student will be assigned a textbook for the year. The textbook we will be using is *By the People: A History of the United States, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2019 (Fraser)*. We will also use supplemental readings from the web mostly but not limited to Stanford History Education Group, <https://sheg.stanford.edu/>

**Materials Needed:** Each student should use the following items to keep things organized:

- spiral notebook wide enough to have an entire piece of paper stapled inside.  
I recommend a 3 subject notebook
- 3 Ring 3-inch Binder
- highlighter and or markers, color pencils, mini stapler or glue sticks
- sticky tabs for organizing notebook

Students should have one to place all APUSH papers, a 3-ring binder, and a place at home to store class papers and project for review use on Semester Exam. Students are expected to keep an APUSH calendar, all notes, homework, in class assignments, handouts, quizzes and exams organized throughout the semester. “Intros” are a daily question(s). Intros should be dated for organization and answered in your notebook for reviewable information. Bring your notebook, a writing utensil and paper to class everyday.

**Daily Class work:** Class time is for covering lectures over the chapters and to use the study guides to gain the “strategic details.” **The class time will use the information inside skill building.** Occasionally, I will need to clarify and emphasize ideas, but if the student is relying on class lectures for the information, the student will have very little information! Reading from other outside recommended outside resources will also be required.

**Homework:** **Homework is where the student gets the information.** Homework will mainly consist of reading the text and outside sources, writing essays, and completing other tasks such as chapter outlines, projects and study guides as assigned. Expect homework on an almost nightly basis to pace; success in this class is heavily tied to completion of homework. We will cover a chapter a week most of the year. Remember that this is a college course and due dates are taken very seriously to stay on track with information to assimilate.

### Expectations for papers, projects, and essays.

1. Typed work in 12 point font size, double spaced, Times New Roman font is highly preferred.
2. E-mail me your assignments by the due dates and times. [Mhillis@wrschool.net](mailto:Mhillis@wrschool.net)  
If you do not have access to a computer, there are computers available in the library, labs, and carts.
3. All work should represent your best effort (write, revise, proof, then revise again)
4. All essays and projects are due on the due date whether you are in school or not. Find a way to get your work here if you are absent.

\*\*\*\*\* **Printer Problems:** We all experience from time to time problems with computers and printers. If you run into printer problems, share with me on Google Docs or e-mail me your paper.

### Assessments:

- Multiple Choice exams after every unit and at semester, **cumulative** at the end of each semester.
- Oral Presentations
- Project Based Assessments
- Chapter Quizzes weekly: includes multiple choice and short answer questions (SAQ)
- Essay exams include Free Response Question (FRQ) –and/or Long Essay Questions LEQ
- **ALL APUSH STUDENTS WILL BE TAKING THE COLLEGE BOARD AP EXAM MAY 6, 2022!**
  - A 4 or 5 on the CB APUSH Exam earns a grade bump!

**Grading:** All grades will be based on points you earn from assignments, tests, quizzes, projects, and essays.

**There is no extra credit available in AP U.S. History**, do the credit work! Grades are your responsibility. Grades will often represent honest evaluative professional feedback. All grades are updated on Powerschool for student/parent portal at least twice weekly!

90% and up	A		
80%-89%	B	50%	Tests/ Essays/ DBQs
70%-79%	C	20%	Projects/ Classwork
63%-69%	D	30%	Study Guides/Outside Reading Sources
62% and below	F		

**Makeup work:** **Get anything missing completed.** By completed meaning not for me, but for you to have learned the material! Because many students have many obligations, most assignments and projects are assigned with lots of time for the student to manage appropriately.

**Tutoring:** We will have tutoring at least once per week but do anticipate that we will have twice a week in the spring as the AP Exam approaches. I will let you know the dates and times prior.

**Attendance:** To be successful, you are **expected to be in class every day**.

Work with a Study Buddy ☺ *Students must work together to survive!*

**Relevant Themes:** The following Themes will be woven throughout the course.

1. American Diversity
2. American Identity
3. Notion of American Exceptionalism
4. Culture
5. Demographic Changes
6. Economic Transformations
7. Environmental Change
8. Globalization
9. Politics and Citizenship
10. Reform
11. Religion

Mr. Hillis  
AP US History

The AP US History curriculum is **extremely rigorous** and leaves little available time for the use of video in the classroom. On occasion, clips will be used to enhance student understanding of time and place, many of these clips come from movies that are rated above a PG rating. They have been carefully selected to add to the learning experience and have been edited for content. Please sign below giving your permission for the viewing of these video clips, as well as an understanding of the grading policies of this class.

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_

class period

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Please provide me with the following information to help me communicate best with you. For convenience reasons I prefer to communicate through email, but if you do not check your email often I can call.

Please place a check next to all that apply

\_\_\_\_\_ I check my email frequently and can be contacted through email  
Email is best!!

Parent email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please call me if you need to communicate. The best number to reach me at during the daytime is (place a check next to the appropriate number)

\_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_