

Advanced Placement United States History
Course Syllabus
Ms. Athanasio

Course Description:

Advanced Placement United States History is a one-year college level course. The course is divided into two parts: Part I covers the Age of Exploration to the Development of the West. Part II traces the development of American political, economic, social and intellectual growth from the Industrial Era to Contemporary times.

This course requires students to address lengthy time periods and complex political, economic, intellectual and social developments, not simply individual facts. The course themes summarize historical trends in America's growth and help focus our inquiry by offering threads of continuity and focal points to study.

Required Materials:

- Textbook: The American Pageant
(you will not need to bring the text to class unless specifically instructed to do so)
- Notebook: a three-ring binder works best to keep notes, handouts, reading and returned assignments.
(You are required to bring your notebook to class every day)

Grading and Evaluation:

Grades are determined using a point system – the total number of points you receive divided by the total possible points for those assignments.

Tests are generally given at the end of each major unit and will cover all materials addressed in the readings and class activities. Tests will be multiple choice and short essay formats,

Quizzes will be given regularly throughout the year. They will be both announced and unannounced. You will be able to use your notes to complete each quiz.

Essays, both thematic and DBQ, will be assigned regularly during the year.

Class preparation and participation are evaluated each marking period. A maximum of 50 points is given to students who are consistently prepared for class as well as participated positively in class discussions and activities. On the other hand, lack of preparation for class, chronic tardiness, excessive absenteeism and/or behavior that interrupts academic purpose will result in a loss of class participation points.

Make-up Work:

After an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to find out what has been missed. Failure to make up work in 2 days upon return to class will result in "0" points for each given assignment.

If an absence occurs on a day when a class assignment is to be completed during the period, a different assignment MAY be given with an excused absence.

NO MAKE-UP WORK WILL BE GIVEN FOR UN-EXCUSED ABSENCES.

Helpful Hints:

You can expect to have homework in this class every night. Junior year is a very busy time – you will be facing many competing and conflicting demands on your time and energy. Get into the routine of setting aside a block of time each day to devote to this course. Consistent effort is essential to successfully completing this course.

Be organized! Keep your notebook in order. Date all of your notes, handouts, etc. Make sure to keep all related material together so they will be relevant and useful later – especially when studying for the AP exam in May.

Flashcards are your friends! You will be required to remember an amazing amount of information this year in this course. Use flash cards to aid your memory of important names, facts, dates, events, etc.

Extra help is always available. I will always make time to help you with any problems/issues you might be having with this course. **All you have to do is ask!**