Advanced Placement United States History

2023-2024 Syllabus (Mr. Sisson, 9-113)

As the title indicates, this is a college-level course. Its format follows that of survey classes in many colleges and universities. Also, college credit may be obtained if a student scores a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP examination in May. The use of critical thinking skills plus the application of comprehensive persuasive writing are an integral part of this study of United States history.

The central texts for the class are “Of the People,” (3rd edition, vol. 1 and 2) James Oakes *et al*, and “United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Exam,” Newman/Schmalbach. Other informational excerpts will be taken from “Documenting United States History, Themes, Concepts, and Skills for the AP Course”, Stacy/Heller, and “A People’s History of the United States, 1492 - Present,” by Howard Zinn. Along with the texts, are a series of readings in social history, and several landmark works as required outside reading. Discussions are far ranging and do not replace the necessary independent reading. The purpose of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to develop the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with American historic development. The course focuses on persistent themes and changes in history and applies historical reasoning to seek solutions to contemporary problems. The curriculum includes copious amounts of independent reading and writing assignments designed to challenge the mature college level student. Students are **required** to take the AP exam on Friday, May 10 at 8 a.m.

AP Exam - General Information

The AP United States History exam is 3 hours and 15 minutes long and includes both a 95-minute multiple-choice and short-answer section (Section 1) and a 100-minute free-response section (Section 2). Each section is divided into two parts, as shown below. Student performance on these four parts will be compiled and weighted to determine an AP Exam score.

Number of Percentage of

Section Question type Questions Timing Total Exam Score

I Part A: Multiple-choice 55 questions 55 minutes 40%

Part B: Short-answer 3 questions\* 40 minutes 20%

\*questions 1 and 2 are required and will reference time periods 3-8.

\*students can select question 3 ***OR*** 4; Question 3 references time periods 1-5,

while Question 4 references time periods 6-9.

\*question 1 requires analyzing secondary sources (historical argumentation)

\*question 2 will reference causation or comparison (3 and 4 will be the other skill)

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Students will have a 15 minute break between exam sections

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II Part A: Document based 1 question 60 minutes 25%

question periods 3-8

Part B: Long-essay 1 question 40 minutes 15%

from 3 options\*:

\*periods 1-3 or

\*periods 4-6 or

\*periods 7-9

A complete course description and sample exam can be located at the following websites:

<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-us-history-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-course-overviews/ap-united-states-history-course-overview.pdf>

<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-united-states-history-ced-practice-exam.pdf>

Assessed Historical Themes

American and National Identity (NAT) Work, Exchange, and Technology (WXT)

Migration and Settlement (MIG) Politics and Power (PCE)

America in the World (WOR) Geography and Environment (GEO)

Social Structures (SOC) American and Regional Culture (ARC)

Time Periods:

1 = 1491 -1607 6= 1865 - 1898

2= 1607 - 1754 7= 1890 - 1945

3= 1754 - 1800 8= 1945 - 1980

4= 1800 - 1848 9= 1980 - present

5= 1844 - 1877

Assessed Historical Skills

1. Historical Causation
2. Patterns of Continuity and Change over Time
3. Comparison
4. Contextualization
5. Historical Argumentation
6. Appropriate Use of Relevant Historical Evidence
7. Interpretation

**Class Grade**

Midterm/Final Exams if required homework

timed writings class participation/discussions

chapter/unit quizzes (timed) cumulative notebook (keep all assignments that are handed back to you)

reading comprehension quizzes outside reading/video assignments

primary source document interpretations bellwork

**Tentative Curriculum Schedule**

1st Nine Weeks

Unit I Exploration, discovery, settlement, British empire, colonial society, imperial wars, colonial

protest, revolution, constitutional development

Unit II Jeffersonian democracy, nationalism, economic development, sectionalism, Jacksonian

democracy

2nd Nine Weeks

Unit III Reform, expansion, events leading to war, the Civil War

Unit IV Reconstruction, settlement of the west, rise of industry, urbanization

3rd Nine Weeks

Unit V Gilded Age politics, progressivism, late nineteenth century foreign policy, World War One,

the Roaring Twenties

Unit VI The Great Depression, the New Deal, World War Two

4th Nine Weeks

Unit VII The Cold War, the Truman Doctrine, Korean War, the space race, twentieth century foreign

policy, civil rights movement, Eisenhower Doctrine, New Frontier

Unit VIII The Great Society, Vietnam, Nixon Doctrine, Middle East involvement, fall of communism

**Supplies Needed for School Year**

3 ring notebook (2 inch) loose-leaf paper blue/black ballpoint pens laptop computer

colored pens/pencils ruler textbooks

Assignments will be submitted on loose-leaf paper. Any work done on spiral notebook paper or in pencil or typed or submitted electronically will NOT be accepted. In addition, phones are not to be accessed during class time.

Contacting Mr. Sisson:

(407) 935-3600 x82636

[sissons@osceola.k12.fl.us](mailto:sissons@osceola.k12.fl.us)

Additional AP info:

<http://www.apcentral.collegeboard.org>

Reading skills: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-united-states-history/reading-study-skills>

Writing skills: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-united-states-history/writing-study-skills>

Exam tips: <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-united-states-history/exam-tips>

Reading Assignments

All reading assignments will be posted on the bulletin board as well as on Canvas. These assignments will be provided in advance so that students may “work ahead” if they wish. Ignorance of posted assignments will not be a valid excuse for not completing the assignments. It is the responsibility of the student to read all of the assignments provided on the reading assignment list. These assignments will NOT be announced in class. Check Canvas daily!! If you need to contact your instructor, send an e-mail or leave a phone message. Canvas will only be used as our classroom platform, to post information for the class and should not be used as a communication tool such as Facebook or Twitter for personal conversations outside of class time.

Bellwork

Bellwork will be given every class day with the exception of the day that chapter quizzes are given. Students may use hand-written notes that they have personally taken (no books/internet access). Communicating with other students during the bellwork in an effort to answer the prompt provided, will not be tolerated. The bellwork will follow the same format used for the “short answer” section of the Advanced Placement exam. The bellwork will consist of one question for the student to answer within a limited time. Students are encouraged to use diligence as additional time will not be allowed to finish. The question may or may not be based upon a primary source. It may be a question that has been drawn from the assigned reading. It is recommended that the student’s answer be no longer than five sentences. The scores for their answers will be recorded on FOCUS.

Bellwork Scoring

Bellwork is given to prove to the instructor that the student has read the assignments (or homework) provided and understands the text and topics being covered in class. Students may use notes that they have personally handwritten. Copies of notes or text pages, typed notes, notes written by someone other than the student using the notes, will not be permitted for use on bellwork. In essence, the bellwork is a reading comprehension quiz in which the student is attempting to prove to the instructor that they read and understand the assignment. Any student that is seen/heard speaking while time is allowed to answer the question on paper, will receive a score of ZERO for that day’s bellwork. This policy applies to using books/internet during bellwork time.

Possible scores on bellwork:

5 points = provided information proving a proficient understanding of the topic.

2 points = a response that did not prove great understanding of the assigned topic.

0 points = a response that was inappropriate or displayed an inadequate understanding of the assigned topic.

Bellwork Contest

A “score board” will be posted on the classroom wall. The score will indicate the date, each class participating, and the weekly average score on bellwork within each class period. Students will be competing only against others that are taking the same subject: AP classes will only compete against other AP classes; IB classes compete against other IB classes. The object of the contest is to motivate students to achieve maximum effort and scores on their daily bellwork assignments. An award will be granted weekly to students whose class had the highest weekly average. An average score must be greater than 3.0 (on a 5.0 scale) to be eligible for the award.

Identifies

“Identifies” assignments will also be posted on the classroom bulletin board and on Canvas. Students are to define each “Identify” topic onto their own paper, and provide a detailed, specific definition for each. Students may also choose to make “flash cards” with the word/phrase on one side of the card and the definition on the other side of the card. These flash cards may serve as a valuable tool when the time comes to review for an exam. Students are NOT to print a copy of the list that is provided on Canvas. These definitions will not be turned in but will be used to assist students on chapter “Identifies Quizzes” that will be provided on the first day that a new chapter is started in class. Students may not use “Identifies” on the quizzes that were written by another person. Ten of the “Identifies” will be selected from the list provided with definitions provided for each. Students will need to provide the “Identify” for each definition provided. “Identifies Quizzes” will be timed (one minute per question = 10 minutes). Students may NOT use “Identifies” on end of chapter/unit quizzes.

Subject Specific Words (ssw)

This assignment is for words that are seen repeatedly in historical texts that are important to the comprehension of historical materials. These words are not assigned to all students but will be given as extra credit to students who enter their name for an extra credit “lottery” drawing. If a student’s name is drawn, they will create a “word wall” using the SSWs for the next chapter being covered. The “word wall” will need to include the subject specific word, a graphic image and a definition. As some words have multiple definitions, the definition provided must be used in the same context as it is used in the textbook in order to receive the five points of extra credit being offered. The word wall will be due on the first day that the class starts covering the new chapter. The word wall must be delivered to Mr. Sisson for him to post in the classroom. If the word wall does not meet these requirements, or is of poor craftsmanship, the student will receive less than the five points possible.

Homework Collection

Homework is only assigned if adequate time for its completion is not available during class time. With rare exception, homework will be due on the day of the chapter quiz and will be submitted by the date and time indicated on Canvas. Assignments submitted after the date/time posted, will not be accepted.

Make-up work

With the exception of “hospitalization,” “funerals,” etc., there is no policy for make-up work. All assignment dates/times are final for all students except in cases listed above. If you are absent, you will be required ask your teacher for work that you missed. School district policy provides that a student make-up any missing work within two days for every one day of missed school.

Bulletin board postings

Important school information and news will be posted on the bulletin board in the classroom for the convenience of students. Students are also encouraged to post other information that they feel is pertinent to the class or school.

Extra credit

Extra credit for this class will be rare. However, students will be provided with an opportunity to create a chapter word wall for a maximum of five (5) points of extra credit. At the beginning of a new chapter, a student be randomly selected for the opportunity to create the word wall. Once your name is drawn, you will not be selected again unless all other students in class have had the opportunity to create a word wall.

Quizzes

Chapter quizzes will be given after the completion of each chapter in the AMSCO book. Quiz questions will be taken from the assigned readings, class discussion, video clips, presentations, class work, graphics posted on Canvas, released AP exams, and homework assignments. Correctly answering the quiz questions will require using skills that will be taught during class time because some questions may reference sources that were not used in class. Quizzes will be multiple choice (15 questions), with four possible answers from which to choose. Quizzes will be timed (15 minutes). The maximum point value of each quiz will be fifteen points (one point for each question provided). Students are not to communicate with other students until all quizzes have been submitted. Speaking during this time will result in a quiz grade of ZERO.

Quiz “Crutches”

A “crutch” will be provided to the class that attains the highest average class score on the weekly bellwork contest but only if the average is at least a 3.0 (on a 5.0 scale). A class will have a variety of “crutches” from which to choose to assist them on an end of chapter quiz. The list of options will be posted on the bulletin board. “Crutches” cannot be “banked,” and cannot be used on “make up” exams. Students in the winning class that did not personally attain a 3.0 (passing) average on their bellwork for that week, will not be entitled to the “crutch” that their class has earned and will have to take the chapter quiz without the assistance of the “crutch.” “Crutches” may not be used on Midterm exams, Final exams, or AP exams.

On-Line Grades

When assignments are submitted to the teacher, they will be graded and the score will be hand-written on a spreadsheet. Once all grades for the week have been collected, these grades will be posted on-line for students and parents to view through FOCUS. Postings will usually take place over the weekend. Only on rare occasion will grades be posted on a week day. Because the student only has one AP United States History class, and the instructor has numerous students, it is the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian, to view the student’s grade in the class on a weekly basis. It is NOT the responsibility of the teacher to directly report unsatisfactory grades to students/parents/guardians. If the student or parent/guardian has questions regarding the student’s grade, the parent/guardian should contact the teacher by sending an e-mail. If desired, the parent may contact the guidance office to schedule a “parent-teacher conference.” Students who wish to discuss their grade/progress, should do so before or after school, not between classes or during lunch.

Student of the Week

At the beginning of each week, the teacher will secretly record the criterion for “Student of the Week” for the upcoming week. During reflection at the end of the week, the teacher will select the student that displayed the greatest adherence to the predetermined criterion. This student will have their name announced in class on the following Monday. In addition to a certificate, the student will be allowed to select one “award” from the list posted on the bulletin board. If the criterion for the week has not been met, this award will not be provided for that academic week.

Attendance

Students that enter the classroom after the “late bell” has sounded, will be recorded as “Unexcused Tardy” on FOCUS unless they have a pass. The instructor will notify you of this action and the deans will use this information for disciplinary action. In addition, the dean will notify you if a detention has been issued. While the teacher is taking attendance at the beginning of the period, students are to be located in their assigned seats. If a student is not in the seat that has been assigned to them, they will be marked absent.

Daily Supplies

Students will bring all of the following to class on a daily basis:

AMSCO book laptop

Self-evaluation graphs Chapter Goals

Blue/black pens Loose leaf paper

Phones

Gateway High School rule, and Florida law, mandates that phones are not to be visible in a classroom during the academic school day unless students have teacher permission. If a student wishes to use an electronic version of the class textbook, it may be downloaded onto their laptop. Phones that are being used during class time, will be confiscated by a school dean and will only be released to parents who visit the school campus in order to retrieve the device. In addition, students are not allowed to “charge” their unattended phones in the classroom.

Review Dates

Students wishing to receive extra time to review for the Advanced Placement United States History exam, may do so on the three Saturdays prior to the AP exam (May 3, 2024). The teacher will be available from 9am until noon on those three Saturdays. The dates for this academic school year are April 20, April 27, and May 4, 2024. Additionally, your instructor will stay after school until 3:00 on weekdays (except Wednesdays) to assist you with your concerns/assignments if you confirm the time and date with him in advance. As always, you are also welcome to send your concerns/questions to me via e-mail in an effort to keep your inquiries confidential.

Miscellaneous

The classroom is not a place where you will be able to “store” your belongings. Do not leave gym/athletic bags, lunches, purses, clothing, gifts, etc. in the classroom. Your instructor is not responsible for looking after your belongings when you are not present in the classroom. You will not be provided access to the instructor’s refrigerator. You may drink water in class but your instructor will not provide you with/nor sell you bottled water. Your instructor does not have the financial ability to take part in all of the fundraisers being held at Gateway. Please do not ask him to participate in your fundraising attempts. Also, please do not use class time to raise money for your “causes.”