



AP US History



Mrs. Newkirk

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On the web @ <http://americorpgal.wix.com/apushghs>

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About the course: There were major changes to the Advanced Placement U.S. History curriculum and exam this year. According to College Board:

The AP U.S. History course focuses on developing students' understanding of American history from approximately 1491 to the present. The course has students investigate the content of U.S. history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods employed by historians when they study the past. The course also provides seven themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places.

Historical Thinking Skills:

The nine historical thinking skills are grouped into four categories: Analyzing Sources and Evidence, Making Historical Connections, Chronological Reasoning, and Creating and Supporting a Historical Argument.

Thematic Learning Objectives:

The content learning objectives for the AP U.S. History course and exam are organized under seven themes, which are topics of historical inquiry to explore throughout the AP U.S. History course.

- **American & National Identity**
- **Work, exchange, and technology**
- **Migration & settlement**
- **Politics and power**
- **America in the world**
- **Geography and the environment**
- **Culture & society**

*These themes focus student understanding of major historical issues and developments, helping students to recognize broad trends and processes that have emerged over centuries in what has become the United States.

**Every AP Exam question will require a student to apply one of the historical thinking skills to one of

This course is taught at the college level--- for college credit. The major difference between a high school and college history course is the approach to investigating history, amount and sources of reading, and depth of focus.

The BIG Exam in May:

The AP U.S. History Exam is 3 hours and 15 minutes long and includes both a 105-minute multiple-choice/short-answer section and a 90-minute free- response section.

Section	Question Type	Number of Questions	Timing	Percentage of Total Exam Score
I	Part A: Multiple-choice questions	55 questions	55 minutes	40%
	Part B: Short-answer questions	4 questions	50 minutes	20%
II	Part A: Document-based question	1 question	55 minutes	25%
	Part B: Long essay question	1 question (chosen from a pair)	35 minutes	15%

Course Materials:

The texts used for the class are ***The American Pageant*** by Kennedy and ***American History*** by Brinkley. However, we make use of multiple sources in our study including primary sources and a variety of secondary sources such as *A People's History Of the United States*, by Howard Zinn. There is a helpful study guide, Barron's AP U.S. History study prep book.

It is highly recommended that you have a three-ring binder devoted to AP U.S. History to maintain discussion questions, class-notes, and supplement materials. You may also want several dividers for organization purposes. You must bring this notebook, everyday.

Classroom Assessment and Grading Policy: School wide progress reports will be released half way through each trimester. However, grades, assignments, and announcements will always be accessible via Powerschool.

The Grading Scale is as follows:

- 90- 100 %= A
- 80- 89 % = B
- 70 -79 % = C
- 60 – 69 % = D

59% and below = F ☹

THE TRIMESTER GRADE IS THE PERMANENT GRADE and is the only grade that may be rounded up. For example, if you earned a 69.4% this = a D+, but a 69.5 or higher may be rounded to the next highest grade.

ALL WORK MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE DESIGNATED AREA IN CLASS OR OFTEN ON TURNITIN.COM. NOWHERE ELSE!

- All unit tests, midterms, assignments, and projects are assigned a point value based on difficulty and time invested.

- Homework will be assigned and may be checked often to keep the student on track. The homework will be collected via turnitin.com at the end of each unit on test days. Words to the wise- do your work!
- **Plagiarism and cheating will be dealt with as described in the school policy. Anti-plagiarism technology WILL be used.**
- Late work **must** be made up for at most 50% credit within **1 week** of the due date (unless by excused absence). It is up to the student to get that work turned in. Work due the day of the excused absence is due immediately upon return. Students may be requested to come in after school to complete unfinished work.
****Athletes** need to turn assignments in or take tests before they leave for an event- otherwise it is late! Please make arrangements prior to the day of the event.

All tests will follow prescribed AP guidelines to provide the best preparation possible. Tests generally will combine objective and essay questions. Daily quizzes will be given on reading assignments. Therefore, it is extremely important to keep up with the daily reading assignments and discussion questions.

Since this is the equivalent of a college-level course, the opportunities for extra- credit are extremely limited. Your efforts should be focused of the basic course requirements.

Missed Exams

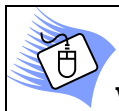
Students who are absent **legitimately** (excused) on a day a test is given **must** make up the test on the day they return. This may either be during class time itself, or after school. This will be at my discretion

Granada Behavioral Absolutes:

All Granada students show respect for themselves and others by:

- Being in class on time
- Supporting learning for all students
- Using language that is not vulgar or hateful
- Following the dress code
- Cleaning up after themselves

☺ ***We are going to have a great trimester!***



Ways to Stay Connected:

Here are some resources for you:

- ✓ **Check out** POWER SCHOOL and my website often for grades, assignment updates, announcements, due dates, handouts, and links to helpful resources:
<http://americorpgal.wix.com/apushghs>

✓ **TWITTER: @Apushnewkirk**

- ✓ **Use a planner** to organize your assignments.
- ✓ **Look on the board!** The assignments are often posted on my board.

*******DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE SYLLABUS VERIFICATION FORM FOR CREDIT!**

This is due no later than Friday of the first week of the trimester. *No ifs, ands, or buts!*

- **To complete form go to our site and click on the verification link on the homepage!**