**Welcome to AP U.S. History!**

**Fall 2016 - Spring 2017**

**Mr. DeMarco**

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**Periods: 1/6**

1. **Course Description:** AP U.S. History 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, while developing and using the same thinking skills and methods (e.g., analyzing primary and secondary sources, making historical comparisons, chronological reasoning, and argumentation) employed by historians when they study the past. The course also provides seven themes: American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society) that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places. This course will culminate in the Advanced Placement Examination.

**The AP U.S. History Exam – Friday, May 5th , 2017 at 8:00 AM**

2. **Format of the Exam:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section 1A: multiple-choice** | **Section 1B: short-answer** | **Section 2A:** **document-based** | **Section 2B: long essay** |
| 55 questions | 4 questions | 1 question | 1 question |
| 55 minutes | 50 minutes | 55 minutes  | 35 minutes |
| 40% of Exam Score | 20% of Exam Score | 25% of Exam Score | 15% of Exam Score |

AP courses require students to do much more work than they would in a normal high school class. This course is, and should be taught as a college level course. A large number of assignments and readings are required of students in order to be successful on the Advanced Placement Examination.

Approximate Percentage of…

**TOPICS**  **% of AP**

I. 1491 – 1607 5%

II. 1607 - 1754

III. 1754 -1800 45%

IV. 1800 - 1848

V. 1844 - 1877

VI. 1865 - 1898

VII. 1890 – 1945 45%

VIII. 1945 – 1980

VIIII. 1980 - Present 5%

3. **Materials**:

* Textbook: *The American Pageant* (13th ed., Kennedy, Cohen, & Bailey)
* 3-ring binder or notebook (whatever size you prefer)
* Loose leaf paper
* Pens in blue or black ink only

4. **Supplemental Materials:**

The following resources are strongly recommended and not required:

* *Barron’s AP United States History* 
* *Cracking the AP U.S. History Exam, 2016 Edition (College Test Preparation)* – The Princeton Review
	+ I would suggest to partner up with someone and share the books to save money. Both books are very similar, but offer different tips and strategies to succeed on the AP Exam.
	+ There are also many different websites (such as [http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/exam/exam\_information/2089.html)](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/exam/exam_information/2089.html%29) that you can visit in order to review for the exam.

5. **Readings***:*

This course will require that you read quite a bit. Keeping up with the reading will be critical for you to participate in class discussions and for you to understand classroom lectures. Every so often, unannounced quizzes will be given based upon the readings.

* Each time you are assigned a reading to complete, or just following along with a lecture in class, you should take extensive notes and make sure you copy what is presented to you. Your notebook will serve as one of the most important references to you throughout this course.

6. **Grading Policy**

* Assessments 50%
* Classwork 25%
* Homework 15%
* Final 10%

**Assessments (50%)**

Exams will be multiple-choice tests. These will primarily encompass the material covered in class, and material from the readings. Every exam will last for one class period. Since this is a college-based course, you will not be given extra time under any circumstances unless you have an IEP or 504. Other assessments include: quizzes, in-class and take home essays, and projects.

**Classwork (25%)**

During class, you will be graded on your class participation, both during lectures and discussions/debates. In addition, you will be expected to come prepared to discuss the material. A lot of your knowledge and discussion material should come from the homework you complete prior to the lesson. As a result, no one should come to class and not be able to lend something to the class discussion/debate. Your classwork grade will also be based upon your ability to present your knowledge through group presentations.

**Homework (15%)**

Homework will consist of readings in your textbook as well as additional readings. All homework assignments must be submitted on time, if not, they will be deducted **10 points** for every day they are late.

**Final (10%)**

Finals will be given at the end of each term (Fall and Spring) of all material covered at that point. The exams will be one class period only.

**Cell Phones and Other Devices Policy:**

* Students are **NOT** permitted to use laptops, iPads, and tablets to take notes, unless otherwise specified. There will be circumstances during the school year where I will ask students to use an electronic device. In most cases, it will be to obtain information to assist them with an in-class assignment.
* If students are caught using their devices for purposes other than classwork, they will be given **ONE** warning. Phones or other devices will be confiscated and given to the deans after a **SECOND** warning has been issued.
* Photos and video recordings are **NOT** allowed at any time during class.

**Late Work:**

* Unless you have an excused absence (proper documentation), any work not submitted on the day that it is due will be considered late.
* Any late assignment submitted within a week of the due date, will be deducted 10 points from your grade.
* Any assignments submitted after that, will be deducted 20 points.
* Once a marking period is over, late work will not be accepted.
* **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

I am looking forward to a **GREAT** school year,

filled with fun and lots of learning!

*I have carefully read and understand the terms of this contract.*

**Signed (student):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signed (parent/guardian):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**