

2012-2013 A.P. U.S. History Syllabus

Course Description

Advanced Placement U.S. History is meant to be a college-level course taught in high school. As such it has several distinct advantages as well as some unique challenges when compared to typical high school honors courses. One advantage of A.P. U.S. History is that students can earn college credit and high school credit for the same class as long as they “pass” the AP Exam (see next section for more information about the exam). This can save them time and money in college. Enrollment in A.P. classes can also give students an edge in admissions when applying to college. Most importantly, by exposing students to college-level rigor in a high school setting, A.P. can prepare students for much greater success in their university coursework.

However, that same level of rigor makes A.P. courses significantly harder than non-A.P. courses and arguably harder than even most freshman courses in college. The reason for this is that the A.P. Exam is harder than most final exams in college. It has to be. Otherwise, colleges would not accept the scores for credit. Another challenge is the pace. We must finish a college textbook in April, well before the end of the second semester. All this must be accomplished by high school juniors who are two years younger than the students taking the comparable course in college.

Even though good attendance and completing homework are essential to success, they are not enough. Students will have to demonstrate their mastery of essential skills and content on college-level exams and essays. This will require a level of hard work and study that is new to many “honors” students. Many students may struggle at first as they adjust to the work load, expectations, and pace. Students involved in extracurricular activities, taking multiple A.P. classes, and/or who are employed need to make sure they have enough time and discipline to manage all of their commitments successfully.

The A.P. U.S. History Exam

The A.P. U.S. History exam, administered Wednesday May 15, 2013, is 3 hours and 5 minutes long. Half of the exam is a 55 minute, 80 question multiple choice section. 20% of the multiple choice questions cover American history through 1789, 45% of the multiple choice questions cover the years 1790-1914, and the remaining 35% of the multiple choice questions are taken from 1915 to the present. The other half of the exam is a 130 minute essay section. Students are required to answer three of the five essays.

The A.P. U.S. History exam is graded on a five point scale. Generally, most public universities award credit or placement to students who earn a 3 or higher while many private colleges require a score of 4 or higher. However, since each school is free to set its own policy, students need to check the specific policies of the institutions they are interested in attending.

All students enrolled in this class second semester are *expected* to take the A.P. U.S. History exam. The A.P. exam costs about \$87, fee waivers are available for students who meet the free and reduced lunch requirements- details will be forthcoming. Any student who does not take the A.P. exam will be required to take a similar exam on the same day that will comprise 10% of that student’s second semester grade. Even so, AP exam scores will not be linked to semester grades. In other words, no grade changes will be made on the basis of a student’s performance on the AP US History exam.

Academic Objectives

Students will be prepared for the Advanced Placement United States History Exam.

Students will study selected historical themes (political institutions and behavior and public policy, social and economic change, diplomacy and international relations, and cultural and intellectual developments) and the significance of major interpretive questions.

Students will be trained to analyze and interpret primary sources, including documentary material, maps, statistical tables, and pictorial and graphic evidence of historical events.

Students will learn how to approach history critically and be able to analyze and evaluate competing sources of historical information.

Students will be able to express themselves with clarity and precision and know how to cite sources and credit the phrases and ideas of others.

Students will learn test-taking skills, including how to successfully take timed exams.

Students will learn to take notes from both printed materials and lectures.

Student Behavior

Punctuality and excellent attendance are required and necessary to succeed in this class. Specifically, students are allowed only the number of days they were absent (truancies not included) to make-up any work missed.

All students are expected to behave in a manner appropriate to a college setting. Those who do not can expect fair, consistent, and natural disciplinary consequences for their inappropriate actions or attitudes. Typical consequences include but are not limited to warnings, detentions, referrals, parent phone calls, parent conferences, behavior contracts, and even expulsion from the class. No food or drink, except water, may be consumed in the classroom without permission.

Grading

Per district policy, report card letter grades signify the following: A=Advance Understanding, B=Proficient Understanding, C=Basic Understanding D=Below Basic Understanding, and F= Far Below Basic Understanding/Has not met standards.

There are several major categories for grades given in this class (see next page). Grades are calculated by the relative weight given to each category, not simply by adding up a student's points for the class and dividing by the number possible. The two categories most heavily weighted are "Unit Exams" and "Timed Writes." These are the two components of the AP exam and are also among the most difficult parts of the class. As a result only some students earn A's. Most students earn B's or C's. A few may even earn D's, or F's.

<u>Grading Scale</u>		<u>1st Semester Categories</u>		<u>2nd Semester Categories</u>	
90%–100%	A	Unit Exams	30%	Unit Exams	25%
80%–89%	B	Timed Writes	25%	Timed Writes	35%
70%–79%	C	Chapter Homework	15%	Chapter Homework	15%
60%–69%	D	Major Project(s)	10%	Project(s)	10%
0%–59%	F	Other Assignments	10%	Other Assignments	10%
		Final Exam	10%	Final Exam	5%

Unit Exams—Unit exams will usually be given every three to four weeks over the chapter(s) covered. Each exam will cover all the readings, lectures, discussions, activities, etc. Students who are absent on the day of an exam must make arrangements with the instructor to arrange an alternate time *after school* to take the test. Students are to make-up the exam within a week, which may be in an alternate form (ie short answer, completion, modified true/false, etc). During the first semester, exams will increase in length from 60 to 80 multiple choice questions and the possibility of identifications. All second semester unit exams are expected to consist of 80 multiple choice questions and identifications, in preparation for the AP Exam.

Essays—The most challenging part of the Advanced Placement exam is the essay portion. Therefore, considerable time will be spent learning and practicing how to think historically and write effectively. The essay guidelines must be carefully followed. (Students also enrolled in A.P. English, or those that took AP World History last year, must take care to follow the A.P. history guidelines and *not* the A.P. English or AP World History guidelines when writing in A.P. U.S. History exams.) Students will usually be required to write full essays at least once per unit. Some “timed writes” may be scored for a specific component (thesis, evidence, analysis). It is anticipated that all essays will be in class “timed writes.” Students who miss an in class essay will be subject to the same make-up policy as those who miss an exam. Class essays will be similar to those given on the A.P. U.S. History exam and will be graded on the same nine point scale. The following chart shows how the rubric’s point values will be converted into a grade book score.

9=100% 8=95% 7=90% 6=85% 5=80% 4=75% 3=70% 2=60% 1=30%

Chapter Homework—Students are expected to complete an assignment each chapter that will force them into the details of the text. More details will be provided later, as they will vary from a reading guide, outline, study guide, lecture screencasts, or some other format in addition to terms to be identified. *No late homework* will be accepted, except as allowed under the school’s attendance policy. In addition, students will generally complete a reading quiz based on the due reading(s) assigned and will randomly be issued pop quizzes.

Major Projects—One or more project(s) will be assigned in the first semester. These may consist of a formal debate, a student-led lecture or review activity, a counterfactual activity, historical electronic compilation, etc. Projects will require a significant amount of research and preparation outside of class. Rubrics and detailed instructions will be forthcoming.

Assignments—Students will receive various other assignments, such as secondary readings, maps, primary source materials, etc. Students will usually receive either full, half, or no credit for these assignments depending on the quality of their work. All in class assignments are due at the end of the class period and all take home assignments are due at the beginning of the next class unless otherwise stated. Participation points may also be included in this category. Besides the textbook and handouts, you will be reading materials available on the Internet and given a minimum of two days to complete the assignment. If you do not have internet access, you must arrange to use a library, the tutoring center, meet with me to download the files on a flash drive or borrow copies of the supplementary materials and complete the questions/discussion boards and submit your work on the class website/School Loop. **You are expected to read the material in the textbook and the supplementary readings and you will be held strictly accountable.** *No late assignments* will be accepted, except as allowed under the school's attendance policy.

Final Exam—All students will take a cumulative, multiple choice final exam at the end of the first semester. A second semester final exam may also be required.

Group Portfolio—Students will work in groups of four to create and maintain an electronic portfolio of their studies. Components will include a timeline, identifications, primary source analysis, and a 4 worlds chart. These will all reinforce their development of historical thinking skills needed for the AP exam. Students will use Weebly- this is the platform used by History Day at the middle and high school levels and is free and very student friendly- programming and code skills are not required.

Miscellaneous:

Health Disclaimer—I/Ms. Ramos have crazy allergies and asthma. ***Absolutely NO CornNut products are allowed in class!*** Just opening the product sends me into an asthma attack. Also, no spraying of perfume or other scented products- they may contain some floral substances which I am allergic to as well. Please let me know if you have any allergy concerns which we need to address in the classroom as well.

Cheating—While students are encouraged to help each other and work together, cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating occurs whenever a student attempts to take credit for someone else's effort. Cheating can take place in or out of the classroom on anything that has a point value attached to it. Any student found cheating will be given a 0 (which will not be dropped or allowed to be retaken) on whatever was cheated on and have a written Notice of Unsatisfactory Performance completed and placed in the student's permanent academic file. He/she may also be suspended from class pending a parent conference.

A second offense will result in another parent conference and a 0 on whatever was cheated on. Any further offenses will result in even more serious negative consequences which may include additional grade reductions and even expulsion from the class with a transfer grade of "F."

Class participation— Students will be required to participate actively in class discussions and group activities. Class participation should demonstrate you are actively listening, willing to offer thoughtful questions, comments, or answers to the relevant class discussion or group activity. Regular class attendance is the first important step to meaningful class participation and is necessary in maintaining

quality work. Class participation is graded. Tardies, no book, or disruptive behavior will affect your Other Assignments grade. Be on time to class and bring your book!

Tardy and Cell Phone Policy —Class begins when the tardy bell rings. If you are not in your seat when the tardy bell rings, an unexcused tardy will be recorded. Students will receive two water closet passes. Use beyond the two will be marked as a tardy- exceptions will be made for medical reasons per a doctor's notice. Cell phones, music devices, and other electronic devices are not to be used in class, unless under the guidance and direction of Ms. Ramos for instructional use- ***I WILL BE VERY CLEAR WHEN IT IS PERMISSABLE TO USE THEM AND WHEN TO PUT THEM BACK AWAY!*** This IS your warning. All backpacks, book bags and purses must be kept on the back of desks or underneath them. Book bags and purses are not pillows, cheating aids, or hiding places for secret texting!

Notebooks— You will be required to keep a notebook for this course. You need to acquire a large spiral binder to take notes and insert assignments and handouts. This will be a critically important resource in your preparation for the AP exam. More information on the notebook setup will be forthcoming. If you keep an organized, detailed, neat, and complete binder, you will find studying for the exam much easier. Please spend time setting up your notebook, and maintaining it throughout the year. **I will collect the notebooks for review and evaluation- these are not available for late grading.**

Work Passes—All students will be given the opportunity to extend the due date of a chapter homework or in-class assignment by one additional school day each semester. This does not apply to exams, timed writes, projects, or other long term assignments.

Disclaimer—The teacher reserves the sole and complete right to modify this syllabus to meet the instructional needs of the class and adjust to possible calendar issues. Minor syllabus modifications often happen during the school year- last year we moved two exam dates. However, any changes will be made for the good of the class and announced as soon as possible.

Web Site: Edmodo will serve as the class discussion board and electronic turn in spot, excluding the group website--- refer to the class period code given to you in class for signup. Weebly will host course units and student websites. These sites are utilized to meet class needs and student suggestions which School Loop does not meet. The additional sites can be reached through School Loop.

Email Address: Elizabeth_ramos@cjuhsd.net , ramosclass@gmail.com , or School Loop

Ms. Ramos

Unit 1 Founding the Nation**AP College Board Topics Covered: 1-4**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Chapter Reading Due</i>	<i>Week's Topic Covered</i>
8/7	1-3	Settling North America
8/13	4-5	Colonial Era
8/20	6-7	Colonial Era & Road to Revolution
8/28	8	Road to Revolution
9/4		Revolutionary War

Unit 2 Building a New Nation**AP College Board Topics Covered: 4-6**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Chapter Reading Due</i>	<i>Week's Topic Covered</i>
9/10	9	Confederation to Constitution
9/17	10	Washington & Adams Administrations
9/24	11	Jeffersonian Republicanism
10/1	12	Second War for Independence & Era of Good Feelings

Unit 3 Rise of Democracy & Manifest Destiny**AP College Board Topics Covered: 6-9**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Chapter Reading Due</i>	<i>Week's Topic Covered</i>
10/9	13-14	Jacksonian Democracy & Westward Movement
10/15	15-16	Culture, Reform, & Slavery Controversy
10/22	17	Manifest Destiny & Its Legacy

Unit 4 Civil War & Reconstruction**AP College Board Topics Covered: 10-13**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Chapter Reading Due</i>	<i>Week's Topic Covered</i>
10/29	18-19	Toward Disunion & Civil War
11/5	20-21	Civil War & Reconstruction
11/13	22	Reconstruction

Unit 5 Gilded Age & Expansionism**AP College Board Topics Covered: 14-16**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Chapter Reading Due</i>	<i>Week's Topic Covered</i>
11/26	23-24	Politics & Industry
12/3	25-26	Urbanization & Agricultural Revolution
12/10	27	Empire & Expansionism

Unit 6 Progressive Era, WWII, Roaring Twenties**AP College Board Topics Covered: 17-19**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Chapter Reading Due</i>	<i>Week's Topic Covered</i>
1/7	28	Progressivism & Theodore Roosevelt
1/14	29	Wilsonianism
1/22	30	WWI
1/28	31	Roaring Twenties

Unit 7 Depression to WWII**AP College Board Topics Covered: 20-22**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Chapter Reading Due</i>	<i>Week's Topic Covered</i>
2/4	32	Politics of Boom & Bust
2/12	33	Great Depression & New Deal
2/19	34	FDR & Shadows of War
2/25	35	WWII

Unit 8 Early Cold War**AP College Board Topics Covered: 23-25**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Chapter Reading Due</i>	<i>Week's Topic Covered</i>
3/4	36	Cold War Begins
3/11	37	Ike
3/26	38	Sixties- emphasis on foreign policy

Unit 9 Contemporary America**AP College Board Topics Covered: 25-28**

**** Time allotted for CST Review and modified class schedule for STAR Testing

<i>Date</i>	<i>Chapter Reading Due</i>	<i>Week's Topic Covered</i>
4/1	39	Sixties- emphasis on Civil Rights & Seventies
4/8	40	Conservatism's Rise
4/15	41	Post Cold War
4/23	42	New Century

AP Review

4/29-5/14

APUSH Exam

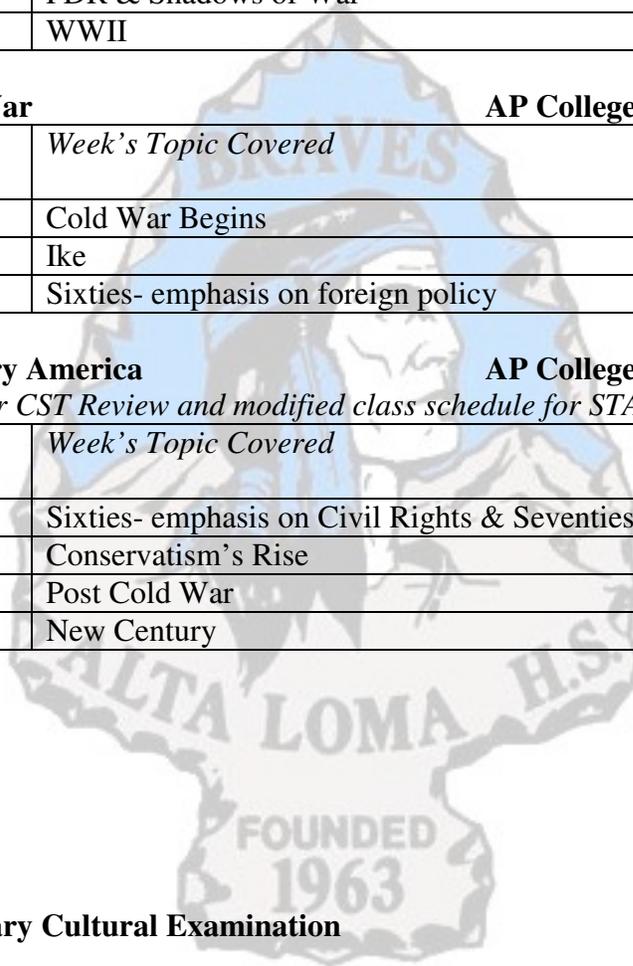
5/15

History Contemporary Cultural Examination

5/16-5/17

Semester Exams

5/20-22



Ms. Ramos

A.P. U.S. History Syllabus Summary

- A.P. U.S. History is as hard as or harder than a typical college survey history class.
- A.P. U.S. History students will read an entire college textbook by mid-April.
- Most students do not earn an “A” in an A.P. course. However, AP students are given an extra grade point per district policy for G.P.A. calculation
- Approximately 90% of the second semester points will be awarded in the first 13 weeks.
- Students who are motivated, disciplined, and take the initiative will do well.
- Students who take A.P. classes usually do much better in college.
- The A.P. U.S. History Exam is on May 15th 2013.
- A.P. exam scores will *not* be factored into semester grades.
- Students will have to complete several large projects outside of class.
- Any students caught cheating will receive a 0, not be allowed to redo the assignment/exam, and will have a Notice of Unsatisfactory Performance placed in their permanent academic file.
- Assigned Chapter Readings are *due* on the date indicated and will be one of the sources of quizzes. Quizzes will be given frequently throughout the course.

This summary is meant to highlight some of the key points from the syllabus about the course. Please read the entire syllabus for more details about A.P. U.S. History.

I have read, understood, and will abide by all of the provisions of the entire A.P. U.S. History syllabus.

(student name- PRINT)

(period) (student signature)

(parent signature)