

# AP United States History (APUSH)

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## About the Class

AP United States History is taught in a survey format beginning with the early colonization of North America and ending with modern-day events. The content of the course is covered at an *accelerated* pace with students reading and mastering one to two chapters of the textbook per week.

In addition to content, another major part of this course focuses on helping students to build the skills needed to be successful in the course as well as on the AP exam. These skills include: reading and note taking skills, critical thinking, historical reasoning skills, thesis and essay writing, as well as analyzing and interpreting primary sources (such as document excerpts, maps, pictures, political cartoons, graphs, charts, and tables) and secondary sources.

## Is APUSH the right fit for me?

- Students do **not** need to have previously taken AP World History in order to take APUSH
- Potential candidates include students who:
  - Are independently motivated
  - Have a strong work ethic
  - Are willing to study the content at an accelerated pace
  - Ask questions
- Students need to examine their ***entire class schedule*** and any other accelerated or honors classes that they plan to take
- Students should also consider their commitment to athletics, clubs/activities, as well as outside of school, commitments when deciding to take APUSH

## What might I gain by taking this class?

- Students will improve reading, critical thinking, and writing skills
- Students will be able to write a coherent thesis/argument and support it with evidence
- Students will also learn skills that will help them to be successful in other classes, such as time management and how to study
- Students that earn a passing score on the AP exam may earn college credit

## Is there a lot of homework?

- The course requires much **more** homework on a weekly basis than the on-level regular U.S. History course
- Each week includes one to two chapters of textbook reading, chapter notes, graphic organizer, primary source readings, as well as writing assignments
- The amount of time to complete weekly assignments and readings, as well as study time, varies based on the student

## Can I earn an A or B in the class?

- Generally, students earn the grade that they desire
- Completing all readings and assignments on time, putting in a consistent effort, and asking questions provides students with the potential for success
- There are many resources available that students can utilize to aid in understanding and mastering the content
- Struggling students are encouraged to reach out to their teacher for support and assistance

## Summer Assignment

- Students read chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the textbook, complete chapter notes, and a graphic organizer
- Information will be provided to students in mid to late May



## Textbook Information

- The required textbook is *The American Pageant* by Kennedy and Cohen, 15<sup>th</sup> edition (ISBN 1111831068)
- A new or used textbook may be purchased or a book may be checked out from the bookroom (only students who request a school-issued textbook will be able to check one out from the bookroom)
- Textbook information is distributed at the same time as the summer assignment

## AP Exam

- The AP exam is three hours and fifteen minutes in length
- It includes:
  - 55 stimulus-based multiple choice questions
  - Three short answer questions (SAQs)
  - One document-based question (DBQ)
  - One long essay question (LEQ)

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## Questions?

Please contact either **Ms. Angela LoPiccolo** or **Mr. Concetto Tempio**

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