

Course Description:

Advanced Placement United States History is a chronological survey course covering the period from Colonial America (1491) to contemporary America (2014). The Advanced Placement program in United States History is designed to provide you with the analytic skills and factual knowledge to deal critically with the problems and issues in United States History. The course prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands on you equivalent to those made by full year introductory college courses. Students will learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance, and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Students will also be prepared to take the AP U.S. History exam offered by the College Board and earn college credit or placement at the college or university of their choice.

Program Objectives:

- Students will acquire fundamental and advanced knowledge of United States political, social, economic, constitutional and intellectual history.
- Students will develop mastery of the process skills: analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and critical reading necessary for mastery of the content of United States History.
- Students will acquire an advanced knowledge of the content and concepts unique to United States History.
- Students will develop the ability to recognize the significance of change over time and cause and effect.
- Students will be able to develop historically accurate interpretation of the events of United States History.
- Students will develop the ability to think and reason analytically as demonstrated through essay and expository writing.

Course materials:

Henretta, James A., Hinderacher, Eric, Edwards, Rebecca, Self, Robert O.  
*America's History*, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> eds. Bedford St. Martin's, Boston, New York, 2014.

Graebner, William and Richards, Leonard. *The American Record* 5<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill, New York. 2006.

Gonick, Larry. *The Cartoon History of the United States*. Harper Perennial. New York, 1991.

Stacy, Jason. Heller Stephen. *Documenting United States History. Themes, Concepts and Skills*. Bedford-St. Martin's. Boston, 2016

Course requirements:

Students will create and maintain an AP U.S. History notebook/ binder. The binder will be of a loose-leaf type and contain the following sections: reading journal, lecture notes, class activities, documents, and test preparation/review material. Students should bring their binders to class every day. The notebook will be a part of the class activities portion of the final grade. Class activities will count for 30% of the final grade.

There will be a minimum of three examinations each term—two midterm and a final exam. The examination format will vary, but as a general rule students may expect multiple choice, essay questions, and short answer questions on each exam. The final exam each term *may* be comprehensive at the discretion of the instructor. All examinations in total will make up 40% of the final course grade. Make up examinations will be given to students with excused absences.

Students will also submit written responses/evaluations of their textbooks assignments (reading journal) as well as primary and secondary sources including, but not limited to book and article reviews and documents as assigned. These analytic writing assignments will make up 30% of the final course grade.

Students may be required to read one book each term in AP U.S. History. The work that students self select may be a historical monograph or biography, or multiple author work on a specific or general topic in United States history. The book review (separate instructions will be provided) will be counted in the reading journal portion of their grade.

Students in Advanced Placement classes are expected to attend class regularly, on time, with their materials and ready to work. In order to be successful in Advanced Placement United States History students should expect to spend from five to seven hours per week studying outside class.

All students are encouraged to express their opinions and thoughts on any topic under discussion. All students and the teacher will be treated with dignity and respect. Disagreement is expected and encouraged, as long as that disagreement is conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

**Late assignments will not be accepted.** All assignments will be graciously accepted until 3:00p.m. on the day that they are due. Students should refer to the syllabus for each quarter for specific due dates. Students should turn in what they have completed on the day that the assignment is due. Partial credit will be given for incomplete assignments. Students who are ill should email their assignments to: [george.henry@slcschools.org](mailto:george.henry@slcschools.org) by 3:00 p.m. on the day the assignment is due. If students are planning to be out of town, they should submit their reading assignments **before** the dates of their planned absence.

All Students enrolled in AP U.S. History are encouraged to take the Advanced Placement United States History examination. The AP test will be administered in May 2016.

Review Sessions:

Review sessions, study sessions, seminars, and movie nights conducted outside class time are for your benefit. You are not required to attend. Specific topics, times, and dates will be announced well in advance of the event. Credit toward student grades *may* be awarded, based solely on instructor discretion.

Grading policies:

Grades will be calculated on a 4.0 scale, using the requirements outlined above. Grades for objective work will be determined using standard deviation. Grades on the report cards will be calculated using the power school default grading scale.

Written work will be evaluated on the clarity of the thesis, quality of the supporting details, and strength of the analytic arguments presented, using the generic six or seven-point AP rubric. Short answer responses will be graded using the three point AP U.S. history point rubric. Multiple choice test scores will be calculated based on the grading scale above using standard deviation.

In this class there is *no* provision for “extra credit.” Please do not request a grade change in this class unless there is an **error** in the calculation of grades. Students may re-write the essay portions of their tests, and correct the multiple choice answers to improve their grades. Multiple point test corrections will be given .05 credit for each corrected answer that is submitted on the test correction form. Test corrections for grade changes will be accepted if the corrections are submitted at the next class period after the tests have been returned to the students. At the end of the quarter please do not ask what your student can do to receive an “A.” At this point in the quarter, the only provision for grade changes is an error in calculation.

Consultation Hours:

Students and their parents are welcomed and encouraged to consult with me whenever they have questions or concerns. My consultation hour is B-7/8. I am also available after school usually until 4:00 by appointment. If you would like to schedule an appointment please call me at 801 583-1661x2414, or email me at: [george.henry@slcschools.org](mailto:george.henry@slcschools.org)

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that all reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities. Please contact Ms. MaryLane Grisley(Assistant Principal) to discuss 504 accommodations for this course.