

AP United States History (APUSH)

2009-2010 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Joshua Waldron, Room 340

Contact Information: jwaldron@waynesboro.k12.va.us or

Course Website: <http://iamjwal.com/history/>

Availability: If you have questions, please see me during my planning period or after school. I stay after school on most days, but you should sign up outside of my door to confirm your appointment.

Course Description: APUSH is a challenging two-semester survey course that explores the political, economic, and social development of the United States from the Age of Exploration to the present. This course is designed to provide students with both the factual knowledge and the analytical skills necessary to critically deal with the issues and events of American history. Our aim in this course is to become citizens of the world, cosmopolitan in outlook and concern, liberated from local prejudices.

Course Objectives: Students will:

- master a broad body of historical knowledge
- demonstrate an understanding of historical chronology
- use historical data to support an argument or position
- differentiate between different historiographical schools of thought
- interpret and apply data from original documents
- effectively use the analytical skills of evaluation, cause and effect, and comparing and contrasting
- work effectively with others to produce products and solve problems
- prepare for and successfully pass the Advanced Placement Exam and the VA SOL Test

Course Text and Readings:

Bailey, Thomas, Lizabeth Cohen, and David Kennedy. The American Pageant. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2002.

Many supplemental readings will be provided throughout the year to enhance the textbook readings.

Required Materials:

- A large 3 ring binder
- Loose leaf paper
- Writing utensils (blue or black pens)
- Several packs of 3x5 index cards
- Highlighters

Class Format and Expectations: Class will be a combination of lecture, small group work, writing assignments, and open discussion. A syllabus will be provided for each unit detailing the weekly reading assignments, key vocabulary, discussion questions, and essay topics. Students are expected to have completed the assigned reading prior to entering the classroom in order to effectively participate in the class discussion. **The reading and writing requirements of this course are intense. Therefore, effective time management is essential to your success in this class.** It is important that you stay ahead, ask questions, and work hard. As you become accustomed to the rigors of the course, things will get easier.

Grading: Grades will be based on a combination of tests/essays, quizzes, in-class assignments, participation in class discussion, and homework. The next page provides additional details for each category.

75% - Tests and Essays

Tests will be given at the end of each unit and will cover the major ideas detailed throughout the unit. On average 3 multiple choice tests will be given each nine-week period.

This course is designed as a college sophomore level class, so students must develop and polish their writing skills. Most unit tests will include an **essay** covering a major theme of the unit of study. This essay will either be a *Document-Based* essay in which students use the supplied documents and their knowledge of the topic to answer a question or a *Free-Response* essay in which the students answer a question armed only with their knowledge of the topic. The grading scale for essays will become increasingly tougher as the year progresses.

25% - Quizzes, In-Class Assignments, Participation and Homework

Quizzes will be given more often than tests and will cover smaller amounts of material. Some quizzes will be unannounced.

In-class assignments and homework must be completed on time. Because this is an Advanced Placement college-level course, **no late work will be accepted. If you are absent the day an assignment is due, it will be due the next class period.** If you are absent, it is also your responsibility to figure out what you missed before the next class period.

Participation grades will be assigned based on your willingness to participate in class discussions, your level of preparedness, and your overall attitude/demeanor toward others.

Mr. Waldron's Code of Ethics:

- Work hard.
- Respect others.
- Live with integrity.

Sign and return this slip to indicate:

_____ I have read the syllabus and agree to its terms.

_____ I will follow Mr. Waldron's Code of Ethics during my time in his classroom.

_____ I understand that cheating (in any form) will lead to my removal from AP US History.

Student name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/guardian name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Contact Information: _____