

AP United States History Class Policies and Information

Instructor: Ms. Sutton, Room 107

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” -George Santayana

Course Description

The AP U.S. History course 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, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods (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.

“The worth of a book is to be measured by what you can carry away from it.” -James Bryce

Textbook and Course Materials

Henretta, Hinderaker, Edwards, and Self. *America’s History*. 8th ed. Boston, Mass.: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2014. (Textbook)

Sheets, Kevin B. *Sources for America’s History*. Boston, Mass.: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2014. Vol. 1 and Vol. II. (Primary source documents)

Hierl, Moffitt, Schick. *Strive for a 5: Preparing for the AP United States History Exam*. Boston, Mass.: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2014. (Exam Study Book)

Materials to be distributed in class – please keep them in your notebook all year:

Reading Schedule

APUSH Concept Outline

Writing guidelines and rubrics (for DBQs, LEQs, and SAQs)

“Success comes before work only in the dictionary.” -Unknown

Grading scale:

Please note that the revised grading scale will be:

98-100% = A+,	88-89% = B+,	78-79% = C+,	68-69% = D+,
94-97% = A,	84-87% = B,	74-77% = C,	64-67% = D,
90-93% = A-	80-83% = B-	70-73% = C-	60-63% = D-
			59% and under = F

Grades

Grades will be updated on Q (the online grade system) as regularly as possible, but please note that essays other written work take a long time to grade, so your patience is greatly appreciated. If a student wishes to discuss grades with me, he/she should come see me outside of class: lunch or (preferably) after school. If grades are shown as “**unavailable**” it means that I am in the process of updating them and will not show any grades until they are updated for all students in that class. Also, please note that if there is a **blank** in a space where a score should be, it means that I have not entered the score yet; **not that it is a zero**. If there is a **zero (0)** for something it means the student either got a zero on the assignment or did not turn it in. This is a function on Q that teachers can choose to check differently, so it may not apply to other classes.

“Excellence is never an accident.” -Unknown

Special note about Class Work and Homework

Your class work includes taking notes on lectures and films, participation in class discussion and activities, essays, and exams. Written work for these activities make up varying amounts of points, with the heaviest emphasis placed on essays and exams. For homework, you are expected to keep up with the reading and be prepared for each quiz. Use the outline study guides (provided for some chapters) and the Chapter Review pages at the end of each chapter to help you read effectively and review them when studying. Students should ask for extra help if needed. See the teacher during lunch or (preferably) after school.

“The only correct actions are those that demand no explanation and no apology.” –Red Auerbach

Additional note on Academic Honesty

A great deal of academic dishonesty is being carried on through the use of cell phones and other electronic devices; therefore, all such devices must be turned off and put away (in a pocket, purse, or backpack) unless expressly allowed to be used for an activity. This is especially true during exams. Students who have such devices out during a test will have points deducted or may receive a zero and a referral. Cell phones will be confiscated if abused in class and work that is copied or plagiarized by any means will not receive credit. See the policy in the spiral-bound book and the school policy in the student handbook.

Attendance

Good attendance and active participation is essential to success in this class. Much work can only be done during class (lecture notes, class activities, film notes, reading quizzes, essays, exams). Unexcused tardies will result in a deduction of participation points. If you are absent for a quiz or exam, the absence must be excused and you must plan to make up the quiz or exam **the day you come back** either at lunch or after school. Otherwise, a penalty will be taken that accrues for each additional day. You should avoid missing quizzes and exams; if multiple quizzes or exams are missed, it will appear to be a pattern of **test avoidance and is considered a form of cheating**. Make-up quizzes and exams may be different and slightly harder than the quizzes held on the scheduled days.

Classroom Conditions

1. In order to minimize disruptions, the classroom door is kept closed. Please enter and exit quietly if using a pass.
2. The air conditioning in this classroom is under district control. The intent is to keep the temperature at a steady level. It may be rather cool at times, so if you tend to get cold, please bring a light sweater or jacket.
3. Please do not wear strong perfumes or colognes nor use strong-smelling lotions, etc, in class. Many people have allergies to such materials (including your teacher!).

Film Permission (for parents)

In order to bring history to life, films are sometimes used in class. Many of these films are documentaries such as those shown on History Channel and PBS. Some popular Hollywood films have depicted events and people in a historically accurate way and therefore may have PG, PG-13, or R ratings. From time to time I will use excerpts of such films in my class. In order to view these films in the classroom, students are required to bring permission slips from their parents or guardians. I have only selected films or film clips that I think are valuable to the units that we are studying, and each of them has been or will be approved by our principal before being shown. In the interest of efficiency, I would like to ask you to give your permission in advance. Please sign the form attached to the syllabus handed out in class to indicate whether your student may view the films shown in class. You may add a note to qualify or clarify the limits of your permission, for example, if you wish to limit their viewing to PG or PG-13 or would like a special permission slip to sign for each film.

Educational Technology

Students may find it helpful to use my website, **huskyhistory.com**, where they can find daily assignments, the reading homework, and reminders about upcoming tests. I also use the “remind” app, but please don’t ignore the due dates posted on the board in class as they are the first line of communication about assignments. Also, I occasionally allow students to use their smart phones for research purposes during class. It is understood that they will be using them for research only and that any abuse will result in the consequences mentioned above.

Contact Information

Email address: **hsutton@cnusd.k12.ca.us** or **huskyhistory@gmail.com** (I check email regularly; this is the most efficient communication).

School phone: 951-739-5670 (please leave a message during class hours; best time to reach me is after school).

Website: **huskyhistory.com** (links to student and parent connect can be found here, as well as a “Contact Me” page).

Please turn in the contact information sheet and permission slip form attached to this page in the version handed out in class.

Thanks! I’m looking forward to a great year!

Heidi Sutton

Note: Policies are subject to change.