

Advanced Placement United States History & Dual Credit Memorial High School (2011-2012) / Houston Community College - Course Syllabus

Mr. Ira Lee Berlet

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Office Hours/Tutorials: Thursday before school (schedule appointment with Mr. Berlet)

Textbook: *The American Pageant: A History of the Republic*, 12th Edition – by David Kennedy, Lizabeth Cohen, and Thomas A. Bailey (2002)

Course Description:

This course is designed to highlight the major political, social, cultural, and economic developments of America from European exploration through the 20th century. During the fall semester we will cover the period from European exploration to the end of Reconstruction. The spring semester should cover from Reconstruction to the present. Students will understand the diverse cultures and ethnic groups that contributed to the making of America's social fabric, and understand the political development of American democracy.

Each student will be expected to learn specific historical facts; however it will be more important to understand the various themes, concepts, and interpretations that make up United States history. Critical analysis and critical thinking are essential for success in this course; asking questions and understanding why things happened and what different meanings they had are imperative, rather than just knowing that they happened.

Assignments:

1. Survey text: You are responsible for reading and studying the survey text by Kennedy, et. al. There will be a calendar that will detail the schedule for reading and daily activities as well as quiz and test dates. Also you will be provided with a Study Guide to help you take notes while you read. While some of the text will be discussed in detail, much of it will be covered through independent learning.

****Note:** Chapter reading quizzes consisting of 10-20 questions based on the text will be given to encourage students to stay abreast of reading assignments. These quizzes will be announced.

2. Supplemental readings: You will be given primary and secondary reading materials (essays, articles, documents, etc.) throughout the six weeks that will deal with an organizing concept that will be emphasized on the major tests. The materials are to be read and eventually used to help construct and defend a thesis within a timed written essay. These supplemental reading assignments will take the form of individual reading and response to questions, group assignments, and seminar type or group discussions.

3. Notes: Good note taking skills are essential in an AP class. You are required to take notes on all lectures and discussions.

4. Research: Research is a significant part of this college level course. Use of a college library and primary sources in original research will be expected. More information on this assignment will follow.

Evaluation:

Major Grades (50%)

Exams/Projects: During each six weeks at least one exam will be given. Each exam could include both multiple choice and free-response questions. Large projects will also be assigned and be graded as a major grade. **Exams/Projects are 50% of the six weeks average.** Each six weeks there will be at least two major grades. Exams will be scheduled on EVEN days with other Social Studies classes.

Minor Grades (50%)

1. **Daily Grades:** There will be relatively few daily grades. Homework, group or individual presentations, and any other assignments are considered daily grades. **Daily grades are 20% of the six weeks average.** I will drop the lowest daily grade at the end of the six weeks grading period. Please be aware that all work done in class or for homework may not be taken for a grade. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS UNLESS IT IS SPECIFICALLY NOTED ON THE ASSIGNMENT THAT IT IS A GROUP ASSIGNMENT** (see Academic Honesty below).

2. **Reading Quiz Average:** Each six weeks you will have an average grade for all reading quizzes taken. They will be open note and will take place at the beginning of class. If you are tardy to class (after the quiz has started) or absent the day of the quiz you will be required to take a make-up quiz that will not be the same quiz or form, but will cover the same material. It will be each student's responsibility to make up missed reading quizzes. **The reading quiz average will be 20% of the six weeks average.**

3. **Participation Average:** This part of your grade will be based on the quality of your responses during classroom activities such as: seminars, discussions, debates, etc. **This will count as 10% of your six weeks grade.**

Makeup and Late Work:

1. **Makeup work:** Makeup tests and quizzes are to be completed by appointment. This appointment must be made and completed within 5 days after your return to school. If this is not accomplished the result will be a zero for that test/quiz. The responsibility for makeup is entirely the student's!

2. **Late work:** **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR DAILY WORK/HOMEWORK.** This is a fast moving college level course and you will be expected to rise to those standards.

Special Note: *** Because exams will be curved, the lowest daily work/homework grade will be dropped, and opportunities to raise the reading quiz average with supplemental assignments will be given (film notes, etc.): AT THE END OF THE SIX WEEKS AND SEMESTER, GRADES WILL NOT BE "BUMPED" FROM 79 TO 80, 89 TO 90, ETC. And no additional work will be given. Thus, neither students, nor parents should ask for this consideration. *******

General Information:

1. **Attendance:** The nature and format of this course make it imperative that you be in class every day. Some of the learning in your absence is virtually impossible to make up, but you can minimize the problem by acquiring notes and such from members of your team.

Excused Absences: It is the student's responsibility to make-up class work, test, and quizzes in a timely manner. If your absence is excused I will be very flexible with you in making anything up, as I know that you do have other classes and all will have work for you to complete.

Unexcused Absences: Unexcused absences are **UNACCEPTABLE**. Key point: **DO NOT SKIP** my class and be sure to have absences officially excused by the attendance office.

2. Teams: Each student will be part of a team during this course. Teams will consist of four to five people and will be chosen by the students. Teams will be used as groups for class activities, study groups, group projects, etc. Each team will be required to have a team captain and you will stay on the same team for the entire first semester. Changes will be made at the semester in cases of schedule changes only.

3. Materials: These items are required each day in addition to your textbook:

1. 3 ring binder with dividers
2. Paper (loose leaf, lined, notebook paper / No Spiral Paper Accepted)
3. Blue or Black pen
4. Number 2 pencil (For scantron tests only / no pencil on written assignments)

4. National Exam: The advanced placement national exam is administered at MHS in May. It takes approximately 3 hours and consists of 2 parts, multiple choice and essay. It is my expectation that all students who complete this course will take the National AP Exam. 100% participation is expected.

5. For Dual Credit Students: HCC - ADA Statement: If you have any type of disability, please let me know immediately. MHS and HCCS have counselors who are more than willing to assist you in any way possible. The HCC ADA office will also let me know what you require and I will assist you to the best of my ability. Any student with a documented disability who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations should contact the Disability Services Office at the HCC at the beginning of each semester. Faculty members are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Service Office.

Expectations:

1. **Work load:** This is a college level history course. The amount of reading and writing necessary for success may be a shock to some students. However, if you organized yourself and are diligent with your time, you will find success. In the first semester (18 weeks) you will read and be responsible for the first 22 chapters of the textbook. Thus, the time to begin reading is NOW! Once you receive your textbook you should plan to read and take notes for APUSH each night. If you pace yourself you will not get overwhelmed. As you become accustomed to the course format and texts, things will fall into place and become manageable. It is important to not get discouraged.

2. **Deadlines are deadlines:** Assignments are due on or before a given due date. You will be provided a Unit calendar throughout the course, there will be no surprises and thus no exceptions, unless in the case of emergency (death, severe illness/injury requiring hospitalization, etc.).

3. **Academic Honesty:** **Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating on a test includes, but is not limited to, copying from another student's test paper; using, during a test, materials not authorized by the instructor; collaborating with another student during a test without permission; knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an un-administered or previously administered test; or bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered; or unauthorized access to previously administered exam questions. Collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing for an exam or in creating work offered for credit. Plagiarism means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work for credit.**

* The instructor considers four (4) words or more taken from someone else or some other written source for which credit is not given as plagiarism.

* Notes for reading quizzes MUST be in student's own handwriting.

* Students found to be in violation of this policy will be dealt with severely.

* Major assignments/papers will be submitted to TurnItIn.com

4. **AP Parent/Student Contract and APUSH Course Agreement Form** – Once you have read this course syllabus and attended your first day of class, read and sign the APUSH Course Agreement Form. Also, you must have your parent/guardian read the syllabus and sign the form. Additionally, read and sign the SBISD AP Parent/Student Contract. You must then return both the district contract and course agreement form to Mr. Berlet to continue in the course.

APUSH/Dual Credit Course Agreement Form

I have read the entire *Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH/Dual Credit) Course Syllabus* for Mr. Berlet's class at Memorial High School. I accept the responsibilities and agree to follow the expectations it lays out for me as a student.

PRINT STUDENT'S NAME

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

I have read the entire *Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH/Dual Credit) Course Syllabus* for Mr. Berlet's class at Memorial High School. I understand the responsibilities and expectations it lays out for my son/daughter as a student.

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE

DATE