

AP U.S. History

Advanced Placement U.S. History is a college-level class taught with the primary goal of qualifying on the AP Exam in May. There is a significant amount of attention devoted to the development of the analytic skills necessary for arriving at conclusions based on informed judgement. Greater emphasis is placed on focused reasons and evidence that clearly and persuasively support those conclusions.

Course Objectives / Expected School-Wide Learning Results

Although all Expected School-Wide Learning Results are incorporated in the course curriculum, the following ESLR's are specifically addressed:

- Students will be able to identify and explain the major trends, significant individuals and important events in United States history, as well as having an understanding of everything contained in the 1999 A.P. U.S. History summary guideline.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in high level critical thinking and reasoning, to think creatively, make decisions and solve problems.
- Students will demonstrate that they possess reading and understanding skills and can effectively communicate ideas, opinions and information in writing.

Curricular Requirements

Textbook

The Enduring Vision

You may either check out a book from the Textbook or you may buy a book for your own use (\$40 for a "used" book, or \$55 for a new one.)

Homework

- The standard format of this class is to read a chapter of the text per week and then take a test generally consisting of multiple choice questions and either ID's or an essay question.
- This is done to prepare students for the A.P. exam in May.
- In addition there are supplemental readings in class and for homework, students will be assigned outside essays in coordination with their English teachers.
- Students should plan on approximately one to one-and-one-half hours of homework every day.
- Students should try not to get behind in their work, they will find it very difficult to catch up.

Grading Policy

The major concern of this class is that students master the information needed to “qualify” on the A.P. exam.

- To receive an **A**, students must have at least 90% of the highest score in the class
- A **B** is given for students who earn at least 70% of the total possible points in the class
- A **C** is given for 60 – 69% of the total points
- Students who score lower than 60% will be evaluated for continuation in the class
- Students must not violate the District Attendance Policy in order to receive credit.
- The teacher reserves the right to 10% of a student’s grade based on classroom **Attitude & Behavior** and 10% for class participation.
- Students who receive a score of 3 or better on the A.P. exam will have their second semester grade raised one letter grade (if possible).

Attendance Policy

- Students are expected to be in class every day.
- If a student accumulate more than 9 “bad” absences he/she may not be eligible to earn credit in the class.
- If a student should find him/herself in violation of any school or district attendance policy, it is his/her responsibility to appeal in the appropriate manner.

Tardies

- Students should become familiar with the school tardy policy.
- It will be followed in this class.

Make-up work

- If you are absent for any reason the teacher will have a copy of what was handed out or done in class on the day(s) of your absence(s), but it is your responsibility to get it before class starts.
- Students are to complete the work and turn it in as soon as possible (usually the next class meeting) for full credit.
- Make-up assignments not turned in at the beginning of the next class meeting, without permission, will be considered late. If you are absent for an extended period of time please check with the teacher concerning the amount of time you have to complete the missing work.
- Late work receives half credit and a notation in the grade book.
- No late work will be accepted more than one week past the due date unless special arrangements have been made with the teacher.

Behavior Policy

- Specific rules governing student behavior are clearly explained in the policies of the Sequoia Union High School District as well as those of Woodside High School.
- In this class you are expected to behave in a courteous and respectful manner to create a positive learning environment.