

Advanced Placement U.S. History

2013-2014 Syllabus

Course Instructor

Joshua Waldron

Email: jwaldron@waynesboro.k12.va.us

Class Website: <http://iamjwal.com/apush>

Course Description

AP® U.S. History is a rigorous survey course that focuses on social, political, and economic factors that have shaped the American regime. Students taking this course will cover a broad range of historical topics and develop a practical knowledge of U.S. History. However, the primary goal of the course is to teach students to think critically as they examine the issues and events of American history. Writing skills will be emphasized in preparation for the AP® U.S. History Exam that takes place in the spring.

Class will consist of guided discussions, primary/secondary source readings, lecture, simulations, writing exercises and other enriching activities. Hard work and effective time management will be essential to student success.

Course Themes

Throughout the duration of the year, students will be taught to identify historical change over time. Class discussions and assessments will give special attention to the following themes:

- Philosophical & Economic Changes
- Cultural Expression
- Reform Movements
- War & Diplomacy
- Immigration
- Religion

Course Texts

- Kennedy, David M., Lizabeth Cohen, and Thomas Bailey. *The American Pageant*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2002.
- Davidson, James W., and Mark M. Lytle. *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2004.
 - Both of these texts are provided by the school.
- Newman, John. *United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination*.
 - This text must be purchased by the student. The ISBN # is 9781567656602.

Additional Reading

- Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. 1st ed. New York: Dover Publications, 1995.

Student Evaluation

- Tests & Essays — 65%
- Quizzes, Independent Study Projects (ISP), Simulations, Discussions and Homework — 35%

Academic Integrity & Late Work Policy

- Cheating and plagiarism, both of which can take many forms, should be avoided at all costs. Students who violate these policies may be dismissed from AP US History.
- No late work will be accepted. Students with an excused absence should turn in assignments they day they return.
- Quizzes and tests must be made up within 3 days of an absence. No exceptions.

Sign and return this slip to indicate:

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

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

Student Name:

Signature:

Date:

Email Address:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Signature:

Date:

Email Address:

Phone:
