

AP United States History
Mr. Benson
Course Information

Resources:

Out of Many; various primary sources, videos, and other supplemental material

Areas Covered:

Advanced Placement United States History is a survey course that covers the period from pre-1492 through the 1990s. The course emphasizes a broad understanding of the social, political, and economic changes that have occurred in the development of the United States.

Class Decorum:

Students are expected to arrive for class on time with all necessary materials, including notebook, journal, and current text. Once in class, students must treat everyone with courtesy and respect. Courtesy includes listening to others, participation fully in discussions and activities, and treating all property in the room with care. Students arriving late should enter quietly and with a pass. At the end of class, desks must be returned to their usual place, chairs pushed in, and trash deposited in the wastebasket. Students should not leave class until dismissed.

Class Grading and Organization:

Points will be given for **class work, tests and assessments, key terms and class participation and other activities.**

Homework: Homework will be given on a regular basis. Homework will consist of textbook assignments as well as long range activities and projects. In the AP course it is crucial that you keep up with readings and writing assignments. Success in the course depends on completing regular reading and writing assignments. In the past, students who were current on reading and other assignments performed better on tests and as class participants. All assigned work will be posted on www.homeworknow.com.

It is crucial that you keep pace in this course.

Essays: The most frequent assignment, in addition to reading, will be a 2-3 page analytical essay. Essays are typically worth 50 points. Work handed in one day late will lose half a grade, and work handed in after that will lose one grade. If work is more than a week late it will not be graded unless you have made prior arrangements with me.

Tests/Assessments: There will be a test or alternative assessment two or three times per quarter. Tests will usually cover from 2-5 chapters. Tests will comprise of a multiple-choice section (usually 50 questions), and a writing section (either a free response or a DBQ essay). Tests are usually worth 100 points, or 50 points for each section.

Notebook: You should keep a neat, organized three-ring binder and notebook. This will contain all your homework and outline notes, class work and class notes, and primary source documents and other handouts. The organization of your notebook is up to you. In the past, successful students have kept an organized and accessible notebook.

Key Terms: The key term list is a crucial part of your study. You are expected to keep up with and complete your key term list. You are further expected to bring your key term list daily to class. The key term list will be collected and assessed periodically (25 points). You will not be told when the key term list will be collected. **Students who fail to turn in a key term list on time will suffer a 50 per cent grade reduction on the key term assessment.**

Class participation: A successful AP experience depends upon active class participation. Students are therefore expected to be active participants, both in large class discussion and small group work. Students will be assessed on participation at 50 points per quarter, or the equivalent of an essay grade.

Attendance/Tardiness: Policies for tardiness and attendance are detailed in the student handbook.

Make-up work/Extra help: If you have missed a class, you should speak to me about making up the work. Likewise, be sure to show me any work that was due on the date of an absence. Remember, making up work is your responsibility. If you require extra help, please speak to me so that we can arrange a time to meet.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to complete all work independently unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. This stipulation includes daily homework assignments, reading assignments, written work, and tests. **Plagiarism** – the presentation of someone else’s words or ideas as if they are your own – can be committed either orally or in writing. The source of any outside material, either quoted or paraphrased, must be cited appropriately using the MLA style.

Other: I suggest that you purchase some type of AP review book. This will help with your regular study and also with your preparation for the AP exam. Finally, the textbook website, www.prenhall.com/faragher, has helpful study guides and sample questions.

D. Benson