

Plainfield High School Central Campus



AP U.S. HISTORY

2020-2021

Mr. Kobliska

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

AP U.S. History is a challenging course that is meant to be the equivalent to a college history course. It is a two semester survey of American history from the age of exploration to the present. Advanced reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study are necessary to succeed. While placing emphasis on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, and interpretation of original documents, **we will be working together to prepare each other for the AP Exam offered in May! (Info can be found at www.apcentral.collegeboard.com)**

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

I would recommend that each student have a notebook and a folder specifically for this class. As a substitute, a three-ring binder with loose-leaf paper is acceptable. Get in the habit of printing completed assignments, notes, review material, etc. In addition to these materials, each student is expected to bring their textbook (*American History 15th ed., by Alan Brinkley*) along with a writing utensil to class. Students who consistently forget class materials will see a reflection in their participation grade.

UNITS OF STUDY

We will focus our study on everything from pre-Columbus until present day events. Some topics will require more attention than others. During this time we will master the following historical thinking skills: chronological reasoning, comparison and contextualization, crafting historical arguments from historical evidence, and historical interpretation and synthesis.

GRADING:

Course grades will be based on a weighted grade scale (60% - "**Assessment**," 40% - "**Practice**," **No Final Exam – 1st Semester**). Note that **not** all homework assignments will fall into the *Practice* category. Students will be assessed based on their performances on tests, quizzes, homework, projects and other class assignments. Class involvement, attitude, and effort are all class requirements expected on a daily basis.

The grading scale is:

90% and up....	A (excellent)
89-80%.....	B (above average)
79-70%.....	C (average)
69-60%.....	D (below average)
Below 60%.....	Failure

Assignments are due on the due date. Absent work completed in a timely fashion will, of course, be given full credit.

ABSENCE POLICY:

Assignments are due on the due date. Absent work completed in a timely fashion will, of course, be given full credit. Other than that, no late work will be accepted.

EXPECTATIONS AND TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- The reading load is heavy! **You must keep up with the assignments in order to succeed.** A calendar that describes deadlines for readings will be given to you at the beginning of each month.
- Students must be responsible for learning material not necessarily discussed in class.
- Because the AP Exam is given in early May, it is imperative to move quickly through the extensive content knowledge that will be necessary for the exam.
- Students must independently take notes on lectures, discussions, and readings.
- It is not unusual for students to feel overwhelmed at first...give yourself time to adjust. As you become accustomed to the course format and readings, things will fall into place.