

San Dieguito Academy

S O C I A L S C I E N C E S D E P A R T M E N T

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Advanced Placement US History - Course Expectations

Welcome.

The AP United States History course deals with varied political, intellectual, socioeconomic, and cultural themes. Our class will begin by considering the world that existed before European involvement and will require students to understand how historical trends influence our world today. You should develop an understanding of many of the principal themes in American history, an ability to analyze historical evidence and evaluate historical interpretation as well as an ability to express historical understanding in writing as well as in speech. Following is a list of some of the trends in US history that we will consider:

THEMATIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES

American and National Identity: This theme focuses on how and why definitions of American and national identity and values have developed, as well as on related topics such as citizenship, constitutionalism, foreign policy, assimilation, and American exceptionalism.

Politics and Power: This theme focuses on how different social and political groups have influenced society and government in the United States, as well as how political beliefs and institutions have changed over time.

Work, Exchange, and Technology: This theme focuses on the factors behind the development of systems of economic exchange, particularly the role of technology, economic markets, and government.

Culture and Society: This theme focuses on the roles that ideas, beliefs, social mores, and creative expression have played in shaping the United States, as well as how various identities, cultures, and values have been preserved or changed in different contexts in U.S. history.

Migration and Settlement: This theme focuses on why and how the various people who moved to and within the United States both adapted to and transformed their new social and physical environments.

Geography and the Environment: This theme focuses on the role of geography and both the natural and human-made environments on social and political developments in what would become the United States.

America in the World: This theme focuses on interactions between nations that affected North American history in the colonial period, and on the influence of the United States on world affairs.

FOCUSED SKILL BUILDING:

- I. **Chronological reasoning** – Historical Causation, Patterns of Continuity and Change over Time, Periodization
- II. **Comparison and Contextualization** – Comparison, Contextualization
- III. **Crafting Historical Arguments from Historical Evidence** – Historical Argumentation, Appropriate Use of Relevant Historical Evidence
- IV. **Historical Interpretation and Synthesis** – Interpretation, Synthesis

<p><u>CHRONOLOGICAL BREAKDOWN OF ISSUES FEATURED ON THE AP US HISTORY EXAM:</u></p> <table> <tr><td>1491-1607</td><td>5%</td></tr> <tr><td>1607-1754</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr><td>1754-1800</td><td>12%</td></tr> <tr><td>1800-1848</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr><td>1844-1877</td><td>13%</td></tr> <tr><td>1865-1898</td><td>13%</td></tr> <tr><td>1890-1945</td><td>17%</td></tr> <tr><td>1945-1980</td><td>15%</td></tr> <tr><td>1980-present</td><td>5%</td></tr> </table>	1491-1607	5%	1607-1754	10%	1754-1800	12%	1800-1848	10%	1844-1877	13%	1865-1898	13%	1890-1945	17%	1945-1980	15%	1980-present	5%	<p><u>THE TEST:</u></p> <p>Section I: Part A: (40%) 55 Multiple Choice Questions, 55 min. Part B: (20%) 4 Short Answer Review Questions, 50 min.</p> <p>Section II: Part A: (25%) Document Based Question, 55 min. Part B: (15%) Long Essay Question (2 options), 35 min.</p>
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1890-1945	17%																		
1945-1980	15%																		
1980-present	5%																		

Primary Text

Bailey, Kennedy, Cohen. *The American Pageant*, Eighth Ed. Princeton: Houghton Mifflin Co. 2006
Additional primary and secondary sources will be used

Student Activities and Requirements

You may find that the amount of time necessary to do the reading and perform well on tests and essays can become overwhelming if you don't pace yourself. Enter this class if you want to be challenged and if you wish to enhance your understanding of the world around you. It is crucial that you complete reading assignments before they are discussed in class. You are the most important resource in this class; your participation is essential. **Please come prepared to think, discuss and contribute.**

Required readings- It is essential that students of history, acting essentially as historians, confront primary and secondary sources while investigating the past. It is by means of historical interpretation, the "art" of history, that students acquire a sophisticated understanding of the "meaning" of history. We will learn to effectively analyze primary sources such as documents, maps, statistics, constitutions and cultural relics such as art, music and fashion. Students will learn to take efficient and effective notes during reading as well as during lecture and discussion.

Homework Assignments – Homework will be assigned daily and will include reading from our text as well as other sources. Student knowledge may be assessed in written form or by performance on in class assignments or quizzes.

Exams – We will have regular exams which will feature multiple choice tests as well as writing tasks.

Oral Reports- You will be asked to deliver oral presentation, both individual and group. They should be well rehearsed, insightful, creative and *fascinating*.

Writing –You will be required to accumulate and weigh evidence and reach conclusions based upon trends and facts and express your findings in writing. You will also be challenged to evaluate existing historical scholarship to detect bias and to place it in its own historical context. In addition, in-class and take-home Short Answer Question (SAQ), Long Essay Question (LEQ) and Document Based Question (DBQ) responses will help you develop your skills and test your knowledge on almost a daily basis.

Student Responsibilities

- Have and earn respect - be courteous and cooperative while you are in class. Listen to, help, praise, and be considerate of others. Take care of the classroom furniture and equipment.
- Make an effort - study and be conscientious about your assignments. Cheating and plagiarism will be defined and handled as per district policy.
- Be present - attend class regularly and promptly. It will be difficult to satisfactorily complete this course if you are absent.
- Plagiarism is the use of any idea or the phrasing of an idea that can be traced to a source without having used proper acknowledgment. Plagiarism is also turning in someone else's work as one's own or supplying one's work to another student for him/her to use. Cheating is copying homework, web sites, class work, quiz, and test answers from other students with or without their permission. Students who work "together" should not submit identical work. If students cheat or plagiarize, parents/guardians will be contacted and they will receive a referral to an administrator.

Late Work

- Assignments are due at the beginning of the period unless otherwise stated. Work turned in after the designated time will be considered "late".
- An assignment will lose half of its value after one class.
- If you are absent, contact other students so that you can come to class prepared. Homework and classwork that are late due to excused absences must be turned in on the first day that you return or it will be considered "late".
- Major projects and presentations may not be submitted late. Alternate assignments may be assigned.
- Missed exams must be made up within one week of the absence in order to receive full credit.

Class Procedures

- *Students earn discrete grades for each quarter. That means that grades "reset" at the beginning of each quarter.*
- I am available during lunch and after school by appointment if you need to talk to me or if you need to make up assignments and tests. I will respond to email within 3 days.
- Grades are not explicitly weighted; assignments receive credit in approximately the following proportions:
 - 35% Exams and Quizzes
 - 35% Essays and Written Assignments
 - 20% Classwork, Bell-work, and Presentations
 - 10% Homework and Discussion
- There are no "extra credit" opportunities.

Student Contacts:

Name	Phone	e-mail

