

**The nature of the course**

- This course is among the most difficult of the AP courses because it has both a conceptual framework that is unfamiliar to most students and it concerns massive amount of content.
- This class makes tremendous demands on your time. These demands will frequently be beyond what you might be able to do. Large reading assignments and demanding writing assignments are common.
- You are responsible for your own learning. At this level of academic pursuit “we never talked about this in class” and “you never told us this was going to be on the test” are statements that are without merit.

**Decide**

- Commit yourself to the difficult reality of this course.
- Reconsider this course if
  - This is the first AP course you have ever taken
  - You have never taken an honors class
  - You have never had an A in Social Studies or English
  - You are not a strong reader
  - You are not a solid writer
- Other U.S. History courses fulfil the graduation requirement.
- I love people to take this course....At the same time you need to make sure this is the right course for you.

**State Standards**

This is a graduation requirement course. This course is driven by a set of state standards. They can be found in their entirety at ( [https://ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/41/documents/USHC\\_2011Standards.pdf](https://ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/41/documents/USHC_2011Standards.pdf) ) There is also a more complete description of the standards in the U.S. History and Constitution Support Document at (<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/se/Instructional-Practices-and-Evaluations/documents/USHistorySupportDocuments.pdf>).

Every thing we do in class is geared in some way to learning these standards in preparation for the End of Course Test in United States History and Constitution. Instruction will also emphasize the elements of social studies literacy and levels of thinking across the modified Bloom’s taxonomy used by the state.

**End of Course Test**

This class is designed to prepare you for the USHC EOC. This is a test written and administered by the State Department of Education. It will count as 20% of the grade for this class. It takes the place of the mid-term and final exams. A dated description of the exam can be found at <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/41/>

**The College Board**

This class is also designed to meet course content and curricular goals established by the College Board in preparation for the APUSH Exam. The AP Course Description for United States History is available in its entirety online at AP Central (<http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-us-history-course-and-exam-description.pdf>)

**The AP Exam**

The AP U.S. History Exam is 3 hours and 15 minutes long and includes a 55 question multiple-choice section, four short answer questions, one document based question, and one long essay question. Student performance will be compiled and weighted to determine an AP Exam score. A complete description of the exam can be found at [http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/exam/exam\\_information/2089.html](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/exam/exam_information/2089.html)

**Assignments: aka Formative Assessments**

These are the assignments that we do in class. These assignments are telling both of us what you understand at any given point. If you don’t get something, then we have time to fix it and ensure that you learn what you need to.

- Class work assignments
  - We will spend class time doing various assignments designed to get us to think about and organize what we need to learn

- Always do all the assignments and always keep graded and returned assignments until at least the end of the nine weeks has passed.
- Homework Assignments
  - I will collect and check representative assignments you do.
  - Do all the assignments and always keep graded and returned assignments until at least the end of the nine weeks has passed.

**Six Check Grader**

This is the method I will use to grade your formative assignments. It is rough way to gage the quality of your work.

✓+	✓+	✓+	✓+	✓+	✓+	100
✓+	✓+	✓+	✓+	✓+	✓	95
✓+	✓+	✓+	✓+	✓	✓	90
✓+	✓+	✓+	✓	✓	✓	85
✓+	✓+	✓	✓	✓	✓	80
✓+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	75
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	70
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		65
✓	✓	✓	✓			60
✓	✓	✓				55
✓	✓					50
✓						45

**Test and Quizzes: aka Summative Assessments**

This is the fancy term for tests and quizzes. We give test and quizzes periodically to determine at a particular point in time what students know and do not know.

1. In the typical chapter, we will take a vocabulary quiz.
2. We take a test for each chapter. Tests are typically multiple choice and may include vocabulary, and short answer. A test may also include a map completion question, political cartoon, or primary resource.
3. Test grades will be the “major” part of your nine-week grade – in other words 60%.

IMPORTANT: If you ever have a question or concern about a grade please address it to me ASAP. We will work together to make sure everyone understands each other!!! I can always be specific about the grade you have.

**Weights**

Assignments are weighted differently in the determination of your nine weeks grade.

Assignment	Example	Weight
Assessment	Tests and Quizzes	60%
Classwork	Notes & assignments completed during a class meeting	40%
Homework	Assignments Completed outside of class.	

**Student conduct**

1. As described in the student handbook of your agenda.
2. Discipline will be handled in respect to description found in your agenda.
3. Tardies - As described in in the student handbook of your agenda.
4. Make up work - As described in the student handbook of your agenda.

**Supplies (Required Daily)**

1. A three-ring binder for A.P. U.S. History and Constitution work
2. Pencils and pens (blue and black ink)
3. Loose-leaf paper
4. Agenda