

*Grady High School*

2018 - 2019 COURSE SYLLABUS

**Advanced Placement United States History**

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| Teacher: R. Lee Pope | Phone Number: 404-802-3001 |
| Room Number: C227 | Email: RPope***@atlanta.k12.ga.us*** |
| Semester: ***Fall/Spring*** | Tutorial Days: Wednesdays/By Appt. |
| Textbook: Out of Many | Tutorial Hours: After School |
| Website: GradyAPUSH.Weebly.com | Tutorial Location: C227 |

**Course Focus**:

AP U.S. History (or APUSH) is designed to give students a deeper appreciation for the tapestry that is the American nation! When we look at the grand scope of time, our nation has been here for only a moment, but what a moment it has been! American History is a giant quilt made my many cultures. We will take the fabric of our history of our country apart string by string to discover what makes America the nation that it has become. From our establishment in the wilderness of the Chesapeake and Massachusetts Bay, to the planting of a flag on the moon. From our triumphs out of adversity to our tragedies that bring the nation together. We are the American people, for better or worse, in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer. From vast sources of global blood we have forged a nation of immigrants!! I love this class and the stories that it gives me the chance to pass on to the student. It is now time for your quest to begin! To decide for yourself, what makes America great!!

**What the College Board Expects of the Student**:

Historians attempt to give meaning to the past by collecting historical evidence and then explaining how these “facts” are connected. Historians interpret and organize a wide variety of evidence from both primary sources and secondary texts in order to understand the past. Readers of AP U.S. History Exam hope to find in a student’s work, evidence of the student’s ability to analyze and use evidence and to answer probing questions about past events. Often there is not one “answer” for these kinds of questions, no more than one can find all of the answers in any one historical source. AP teachers and exam readers are looking for a student’s ability to think about history and to support ideas with evidence.

AP students should become familiar with the three components of the subject that shape the exam: (1) historical thinking Skills; (2) thematic analysis; (3) the concepts and understandings of the nine periods that organize the content. These three components of the course are explained later.

**Reading and Writing:**

Reading and writing about history is a key component to the AP U.S. History class. The College Board has redesigned the class to incorporate more document analysis and writing. Therefore, reading is essential to the class. You will keep two notebooks this year. The first is a standard three-ring binder to keep your notes, outlines, handouts, etc. The second will be a composition notebook for document analysis. At the beginning of every class you will use your composition book and the class document reader to write about the documents we will use in class that day. There will also be a lot of essay writing on these documents as I incorporate DBQs. Please plan on one essay every other week for the first semester.

**Books that I will use for this class are:**

1. Faragher, John Mack, et al. Out of Many: A History of the American People, 6th Edition.

 Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2011.

1. Kennedy, David M., et al. The American Spirit: U.S. History as seen by Contemporaries,

 13th Edition. Cenage Learning, 2014.

**Grading:**

* Grades will be calculated as follows:
	+ Examinations…………………………………….……20%
	+ Writing Assignments……………………………...25%
	+ Composition Document Notebooks.………15%
	+ Homework……………………………………….…….10%
	+ Notecards/Exam Prep………….………………..15%
	+ Final Examination…………………………………..15%
* Students will be assessed for their knowledge of not only class lectures, but also textbook chapters, historical essays, and documents.
* There will be a formal writing assignment, based on the essay formats required for the College Board Exam in May, for every unit of instruction. The graded essays are to remain in your notebook at the end of each specified period. As you can see above, this is 25% of your total average, so writing is essential.
* Composition Notebooks will be taken up on exam day.
* Students will need a LARGE 3 ring binder in which to take notes and place handouts. EVERYONE should plan on taking notes every day this year! I wish I had a nickel for every student that asked the question, “What are we doing to today Pope?!” Because the answer is ALWAYS the same…..taking notes! History is a story and you will be required to write that story down in note form. It is RARE that I have students sit and listen and pass the AP Exam in May. I need for all students to understand that if you hear it, write it, and return to re-read it, you are actually learning it! Therefore, notes are a non-negotiable.
* I don’t give mindless busy work. The work that I give to students prepares them for what they are asked to do on exams. If the work is not complete, the student is not properly preparing for the AP examination in May. I can not express enough how scores will lower one to two points for students that don’t do keep up with their homework.

**Campus Portal for Parents and Guardians:** Visit – <https://ic.apsk12.org/portal> to view class schedules,

 attendance records, and grades. To activate your account, visit the school to receive your login

**Deficiency Reports:**

Parents and guardians are informed when students are making unsatisfactory progress in classes. Poor performance will be reported to parents and guardians as soon as problems are evident. Deficiency reports with plans for remediation will be provided for all students making unsatisfactory progress, and parent-guardians conferences must be scheduled. Unsatisfactory grades should never come as a surprise to parents, guardians, or students. Also, see Board Policy Administrative Regulation IHA-R(1) under “Students in danger of not meeting academic expectations” for further information. Teachers will:

* Contact parents/guardians early in the semester if academic, attendance, or behavioral difficulties are apparent.
* Notify the counselor, Student Support Team (SST)/Response To Intervention(RTI) Chair, and/or an Assistant Principal of serious problems that are affecting classroom performance.
* Set up parent conferences as necessary.

**Athletics Eligibility:** Students wanting to participate in athletic programs governed by the GHSA and

 extracurricular activities must meet eligibility requirements to participate. The Athletic Director (and

 the Extracurricular Activities sponsors) will collaborate with teachers to monitor and to identify

 students in danger of failing courses. A master list of students participating in extracurricular activities

 and athletics under the auspices of the GHSA will be available to all staff.

**Miscellaneous:**

* Quizzes will cover material taught in class, documents read in class or for homework, and/or from the textbook. In addition to this I will also give students a list of vocabulary terms BEFORE we begin a new time period. These are basic vocabulary and note cards are not required for these terms, BUT there WILL be a quiz over the terms within the first few classes of that new time period. Additionally, there will be quizzes that cover the notecards that I have you keep that DO cover the key people, events, places, documents, etc. These quizzes will always be announced prior to administration.
* Students are required, each night, to answer a series of questions based on the notes that were taken in class that day. These will be checked for completion at the beginning of each class by the instructor while students are reading their daily document. After checking for completion, I will then answer any questions from the homework. The purpose of this is to put students in the habit of studying each night when they get home. It is not busy work, but rather forces students to get into the good study habits they will need in college.

**Computers**

* The perennial question seems to be, “Can’t we take notes on our laptop?” The answer to lap tops has been iffy. Some students bring a laptop and USE it for my class. Others bring laptops and use it to research debate topics or play computer games…..or watch movies using subtitles!! I can also promise you that the VAST majority of students that did this did not make a perfect score on the AP exam, although they were very capable of doing so!! This past year computers became SUCH a problem that this year….there will be NO computers allowed in the classroom, without approval. All notes must be handwritten. Aside from the fact that students might take advantage of computers, there is a scientific reason behind handwriting your notes. When one writes, one writes words, but when one types one types letters. If you handwrite your notes, then go home and answer questions based on the notes you took in class that day, you are really hitting all of the senses. You have heard it, written it, read it, and rewritten it. It makes studying so much easy if one goes through these steps on the front end, rather than cramming for a test on the back end.

**Attendance**

Excessive or regular absences will almost certainly result in poor academic performance and/or failure. Please make every effort to attend every class. It speaks volumes about your commitment to the class and the AP Exam in May. Remember this is your chance to gain college credit before entering college! Why would you miss classes? Also, PLEASE don’t be tardy! Once or twice here and there, I understand. Habitually…not so much!

**Preparation and Homework**

Procrastination is your greatest enemy in this class. The new College Board redesign for the course requires more work out of students. Please make sure that you do the following to keep up:

* Devote time to studying your lecture notes and combining those with any textbook notes. If you aren’t spending about an hour every other day with your work, then you are not preparing properly. Work smart, not hard.
* Complete ALL written assignments!! You may ask kids from previous years and think that you will be able to turn in essays late or that there aren’t that many essays. However, due to the rise in scores, I am increasing the number of essays! Remember, you may not like writing them, but you only have to write 1. I have to read and score about 180!
* Prepare for all exams as we work. The study guides will not be questions, but rather topics covered on the test. Don’t wait until the last minute to get them done. Do them as we cover the material.
* Read any assigned reading. There are many times this year that you are required to carry over reading from AP Lang to this class and vice versa.
* Be prepared for quizzes at all times. These quizzes will often be announced, but you never know if I want to do a spot check to make sure everyone is studying. ALSO, it does not matter if you let other classes know you had a quiz. They may not have a quiz that day AND if they do have one….it will be different material from the unit.

**Discipline**

* Since this is a college level class, college level behavior is expected. Respect is the key word! All students opinions about the subjects covered in class are valid. History is about interpretation and unless you have the FACTS wrong, everyone is entitled to their opinions about the facts! It is actually important that students share their opinions, as that is what the College Board expects. Therefore, no one is to be disrespectful of another student’s thoughts.
* All students are required to remain QUITE when the teacher is giving direct instruction. There will be NO argument over this issue. I will not talk while you are talking. I expect the same respect
* Students are to sit facing forward in their seats at all times during direct instruction. Part of my job is to not only teach you at a college level, but to teach you HOW to behave as a college student. Sitting in any other way sends a bad impression to the instructor about your interest in the class.

**Miscellaneous**

* **Cell Phones**: There will be no VISIBLE cell phones. While I don’t care that you HAVE a cell phone (and sometimes I want you to look up stuff on them) I do not want to SEE them! APS and Grady policy clearly states there will be no cell phones in the classroom. In addition to this there will a ZERO tolerance policy for cell phones during exams and writing assignments. On exam or writing day I will provide you with a zip lock bag with your name on it. You will put your phone in the bag and place it in the box beside my desk. Before class ends I will return all phones one at a time.
* **Food**! Well, I TRY to let students weigh their own options here, but be reasonable. Eating something that does not have an offensive smell is a must. That said (and to piggy back on tardy)….if you are tardy for class (and this has happened more than once) and you bring in your hot breakfast from Waffle House, which you spread across your desk and proceed to eat, then we might have a problem! ☺ Get up earlier and EAT at Waffle House if that is what you need! Don’t bring greasy food to my classroom!
* **Sleeping**! Do it at home! Not my class…or ANY class! I know you get tired, we all do! However, I can not TELL YOU how insulting it is to a teacher to have you sleep in their class. It is invariably those students that want extra help in tutorials.
* **Bathroom Breaks**: You are in college when you are in my class. There is absolutely no need to raise your hand and ask to go to the bathroom. Get the pass and go. NOW, that stated….you may not go out every 10 minutes and you may NOT go out because a friend has stopped by, motioned you to come out, and you run! If that becomes a problem, your individual restroom breaks will become restricted and counted. AND ONE LAST THING! Do NOT tell other teachers, “Mr. Pope doesn’t care if we go to the bathroom!” They are not Mr. Pope. Each teacher establishes their own rules. Please don’t play us against one another. It will not work.
* **Dress Code**: Please remember that Grady High School and Atlanta Public Schools has a dress code policy. OBEY IT!!! I find it embarrassing to “call people out” on their attire. Please dress accordingly with respect for yourself and those around you. That said….I keep the room pretty cold, so you will want to cover up anyway!