

AP AMERICAN HISTORY: 2009-10 SYLLABUS

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I. WHAT IS HISTORY AND WHY DO WE STUDY IT?

"History is all the remains that have come down to us from the past, studied with all the critical and interpretive power that the present can bring to the task." (Frederick Turner)

HISTORY is a discipline that provides society with a memory, and thus with an identity. If we have no memory, we do not know who we are or where we are going. This class will focus on the history of America from the pre-colonial period into the early 21st century. The benefits of taking this class are many, but these things stand out:

(1) We live in a nation that is unique in the annals of world history and we need to understand that heritage and what it means for today and the future;

(2) History is about increased self-awareness. Your formative environment has had a powerful impact on you as a person (post-Cold War America). Why are things the way they are in the spring of 2010? The explanation for motives, attitudes, behaviors, trends, and changes are found in the sometimes dusty pages of history.

(3) History is a vehicle for self-improvement. The skills you learn in this class will benefit you in a number of practical ways, both in your current studies and in your future academic challenges.

(4) Beyond these fundamental advantages, Advanced Placement is unique in that it offers you the opportunity to test for college credit in the spring of the year. Perhaps that will be part of your experience!

II. FOUR BASIC ASSUMPTIONS THAT I AM MAKING ABOUT YOU:

(1) You have good reading ability and would like to continue to improve it;

(2) You have been successful in history classes and have a high level of interest;

(3) You can work independently and work hard;

(4) You are expecting to attend college in the near future.

I CHALLENGE YOU TO . . .

- MAINTAIN YOUR INTENSITY
- PROCESS LARGE AMOUNTS OF INFORMATION
- ORGANIZE YOUR THINKING
- VIEW LEARNING AS A PROCESS

“When the pupil is ready the teacher will appear.”

-- Zen Philosophy

III. OBJECTIVES: WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?

While the objectives of the class will become clearer to you as we proceed, it is important that you keep the “big picture” in mind. I will work with you to:

- (1) **BECOME A PERCEPTIVE, DISCIPLINED, AND INFORMED STUDENT OF HISTORY:** We will consistently work on four things in this regard: processing large amounts of information, staying focused, organizing your thinking, and viewing learning as a process.
- (2) **PREPARE FOR THE AP EXAM:** On Friday, 7 May you will have the opportunity to take the National Exam in American History. Much of the work that we do throughout the year revolves around developing the skills to successfully handle this challenge.

IV. HOW DO YOU SUCCEED IN THIS UNDERTAKING?

Education should always be a journey toward SELF-MASTERY. I cannot guarantee success for each of you on that journey, but based on my experiences with advanced students over the past 31 years, I can suggest the following:

- (1) **READ EVERY ASSIGNMENT THOROUGHLY AND WITH A PURPOSE!**
- (2) **MAKE ATTENDING CLASS A PRIORITY!**
- (3) **TAKE GOOD NOTES DURING CLASS, CONCENTRATING ON IMPORTANT POINTS!**
- (4) **BE WILLING TO WORK ON YOUR VERBAL SKILLS IN THE CLASSROOM!**
- (5) **FORM A STUDY GROUP WITH TWO OR THREE OTHER STUDENTS!**
- (6) **EMPHASIZE QUALITY IN YOUR WORK!**
- (7) **WORK HARD AND WORK SMART! USE YOUR FOCUS TIME FOR STUDYING!**

V. HOW ARE GRADES DETERMINED?

Grades will be determined using a points and percentages system. Assignments will be weighted appropriately – we do not have a “weighted” grading system at BRHS and I do keep the rigor of this class in mind as we proceed. *You are competing against a set standard rather than the other students in the class.* The standard will be as follows: A = 93-100%, A- = 90-92%, B+ = 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B- = 80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C = 73-76%, C- = 70-72, D+ = 67-69%, D = 63-66%, D- = 60-62%, F = BELOW 60%. I will give you more particulars about the grading system as we proceed.

VI. TEXT: Kennedy, Cohen, and Bailey. The American Pageant (12th Edition). 2002.

In my estimation, Bailey is one of the finest history texts ever produced. The writing style is interesting, informative, and entertaining! This will serve as our core text and, by the way, reading Bailey may change your life!

YOUR TEST-PREP BOOK WILL BE
EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO YOU AS WE
PROCEED TO “FILL IN THE GAPS” OR SAVE
TIME! USE IT WELL!

“The surest way to make it hard for children is to make it easy for them.”

-- Eleanor Roosevelt

VII. LATE ASSIGNMENTS

A big part of self-mastery is meeting deadlines. You need to be A RESPONSIBLE YOUNG ADULT in this class. Work is due by 3:15 of the assigned due date – anything beyond that will be considered late. Late work will mean a loss of half-credit on the assignment.

AP US HISTORY: 2009-10 SCHEDULE

The following is a working calendar for this course dealing with major assignments. We will adhere to the schedule as closely as possible with changes being noted well in advance.

TERM 3	25 January Through 1 April (47 DAYS)
25-29 January	U1: Intro to American History: Times Present, Times Past
27 January (W)	PRE-AP WORK DUE! (Considered RFS #1)
1-16 February	U2: The Early Republic: 1789-1815
5 FEB (F)	America's Top 40 Test #1
8 FEB (M)	Review Test #1 (1607-1800) Multiple Choice and Essay
12-15 February	No Classes/ Friday In-Service and Monday Off
16 FEB (T)	RFS #2 Due (Unit 2)
17 FEB – 2 MARCH	U3: Jacksonian Democracy: 1815-1840
19 FEB (F)	America's Top 40 Test #2
26 FEB (F)	MID-TERM
1 MARCH (M)	RFS #3 Due (Unit 3)
2 MARCH (T)	Conferences (Listen for Details)
3 – 17 MARCH	U4: Expansion and Division: 1841-1865
4 MARCH (TH)	Review Test #2 (1800-1840) Multiple Choice and Essay
5 MARCH (F)	Snow Day (Potentially Off)
9 MARCH (T)	America's Top 40 Test #3
12 MARCH (F)	Late Start Schedule
17 MARCH (W)	RFS #4 Due (Unit 4)
18 – 30 MARCH	U5: Restoration and Transition: 1865-1900 Turner Project Work (Listen for Details)
19 MARCH (F)	Review Test #3 (1840-1865)
23 MARCH (T)	America's Top 40 Test #4
WEEK OF 29 MARCH	FINAL EXAM AND REORGANIZATION WEEK (Listen for Details) The Final will include Review Test #4 (1865-1900) and an in-class essay
1 APRIL (TH)	Last Day of Term 3 (Early Release)
2 APRIL (F)	No Classes

“What is excellence? To be thoroughly dissatisfied with yourself in a constructive way – objectively knowing the difference between where you are and where you could be, without self-pity or self-justification.”

-- Walter Prausnitz -- Concordia College

TERM 4	5 APRIL – 8 JUNE (44 DAYS)
5-6 APRIL	No classes (6 April is Snow Day – Potentially Off)
7-20 APRIL	U6: Foreign Policy – Phase I: Rise to Power: 1898-1945 (Note: We will be simultaneously reading domestic history – Unit 8)
9 APRIL (F) LATE START	RFS #6(a) Due (First Half of Unit 6)
12 APRIL (T)	America's Top 40 Test #5
20 APRIL (T)	RFS #6(b) Due (Second Half of Unit 6)
21 APRIL – 4 MAY	U7: Foreign Policy – Phase II: Cold War and Beyond: 1945-1975 (Note: We will be simultaneously reading domestic history – Unit 8)
22 APRIL (TH)	Review Test #5 (1898-1945) Foreign Policy/ Multiple Choice/ Essay
26 APRIL (M)	RFS #7(a) Due (First Half of Unit 7)
29 APRIL (TH)	America's Top 40 Test #6
4 MAY (T)	RFS #7(b) Due (Second Half of Unit 7)
5-6 MAY	TEST-PREP DAYS LEADING TO NATIONAL EXAM
FRIDAY 7 May 2010	<p style="text-align: center;">AP US HISTORY NATIONAL EXAM (a.m.)</p> <p>Tuesday 5.4 Spanish Language (a.m.) Wednesday 5.5: Calculus (a.m.) Thursday 5.6: English (a.m.) Monday 5.10: Biology (a.m.) Tuesday 5.11: Psych (p.m.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Other AP Exams</p>
7 MAY (F)	MID-TERM
11 May – 3 June This is the post-exam phase of the class and we will change our approach somewhat.	U9: Domestic Politics – Phase II: Post-War Liberalism and Conservative Response: 1945-1995 – FOCUS ON “COMING OF AGE IN MODERN AMERICA” (TURNER PROJECT REVISITED)
11 MAY (T)	Conferences (Listen for Details)
14 MAY (F)	Late Start Schedule
31 MAY (M)	Memorial Day/ No classes
3-4 JUNE (W-TH)	SENIOR FINALS (Listen for details on how we will handle this)
6 JUNE (S)	GRADUATION!
7-8 JUNE (M-T)	FINALS FOR UNDERCLASSMEN
8 JUNE (Early Release)	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2009-10

“SUCCESS IS UNCOMMON, THEREFORE NOT TO BE ENJOYED BY COMMON PEOPLE. I’M LOOKING FOR UNCOMMON PEOPLE.” (Cal Stoll)

2009-10 READING SCHEDULE

<p>BY WEDNESDAY, 27 JANUARY (PRE-AP WORK = RFS #1) UTILIZE YOUR TEST PREP BOOK!</p>	<p>Pre-AP Reading: Chapter 41 (Portions) and Chapters 2-9 (25-189/ recommended) Total Pages = 201 (Streamlined Version: Early American History Document You Received in September)</p>
<p>BY TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY RFS #2 (Unit 2)</p>	<p>Chapters 10-12 (190-240) Total Pages = 50</p>
<p>BY MONDAY 1 MARCH RFS #3 (Unit 3)</p>	<p>Chapters 12-13 (240-286) Total Pages = 46</p>
<p>UTILIZE YOUR TEST PREP BOOK!</p>	<p><i>Note: Portions of Chapters 14-16 will be read during Unit 3, but will not be assigned as part of your OUTLINE WORK.</i></p>
<p>BY WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH RFS #4 (Unit 4)</p>	<p>Chapters 17-19 (370-434) Total Pages = 63</p>
<p>UTILIZE YOUR TEST PREP BOOK!</p>	<p><i>Note: Portions of Chapters 20-21 will be read during Unit 4, but will not be assigned as part of your OUTLINE WORK.</i></p>
<p>During the last two weeks of term 3 you will completing a prepared reading in class that focuses on the period from 1865-1900 – listen for details on that as we proceed. I will also point out portions of the text that should be read related to this period.</p>	<p>Chapters 22-28 of KCB focus on the post-Civil War era and into the 20th Century. We will be handling this period differently during class and utilizing our time to do preliminary review and prep for the National Exam.</p>
<p>BY FRIDAY 9 APRIL RFS #6(a)</p>	<p>Chapters 30 (693-703), 31 (705-727), and 33 (762-764, 774-776) Total Pages = 36</p>
<p>BY TUESDAY 20 APRIL RFS #6(b)</p>	<p>Chapters 35-36 (806-855) Total Pages = 49</p>
<p>BY MONDAY 26 APRIL RFS #7(a)</p>	<p>Chapters 37 (858-886) and 38 (899-905) Total Pages = 34</p>
<p>BY TUESDAY 4 MAY RFS #7(b)</p>	<p>Chapters 39 (916-923, 934-945) and 40 (946-951, 957-959, 962-963, 970-975) Total Pages=32</p>
<p>WHILE READING FOR UNITS 6 AND 7 WE WILL INCORPORATE A PREPARED SUMMARY THAT RELATES TO DOMESTIC HISTORY, 1898-1945.</p>	<p>CORRESPONDING TEXT READING (1898-1945) Chapters 29 (664-686), 30 (687-693), and 32 (728-752) Total Pages = 52 Chapters 33 (753-762, 764-773) and 34 (777-805) Total Pages = 46</p>

Realize that we will utilize the following pages as we explore domestic history since 1945 during the final portion of the class. You will have a summary reading related to that throughout the semester.

Chapters 38 (887-899, 905-915), 39 (923-934), and 40 (951-957, 959-962, 963-970)
 Total Pages = 49