**Course Requirements 2015-2016**

**Advanced Placement U.S. History (APUSH)**

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| ***COURSE DESCRPTION*** | This course is intended to teach students about United States History from the pre-Columbian era to the present, introduce students to college-level work and expectations, and prepare students for the AP exam in U.S. History, by which they may earn 6 hours of college credit. |
| ***INSTRUCTION*** | A variety of instructional techniques will be used, including lecture, discussion, group activities, simulations, etc. It is essential that students take detailed notes and maintain their class materials in an organized manner for the entire school year. |
| ***ASSIGNMENTS & ASSESSMENTS*** | **TEACHER WEBSITES** All class information, assignments, and handouts are posted to the APUSH teachers’ websites:   * Mrs. Widner - [www.widner.weebly.com](http://www.widner.weebly.com) * Mrs. Floyd – [www.floydap.weebly.com](http://www.floydap.weebly.com) * Ms. Brett – [www.apbrett.weebly.com](http://www.apbrett.weebly.com)   Students are responsible for printing the assignments found on the website (generally, hard copies will not be provided). **CALENDAR** A calendar indicating all due dates, quiz dates, test dates, etc. will be posted on the teacher websites at the beginning of each of the instructional units.  **TERMS LISTS** For each of the historical periods we study, you will be provided with a terms list via the teacher websites. You will define the terms on your own over the course of the unit in preparation for quizzes and the test. You are encouraged to bring your terms list to every class because many of the terms will be discussed by the teacher or will appear in a class activity. You may also use your textbook or other sources to identify the terms. You can write definitions of the terms to earn up to five points extra credit on the test. To be eligible for the extra credit, you must define the terms in your own words, complete them in your own handwriting, explain each term’s historical significance, and submit the definitions on the day of the test. At the end of the year, these terms lists will be helpful as you review for the AP exam.**TERMS QUIZZES** You will take 1-2 quizzes over the terms for each historical period (approx 1 quiz per week).  **READING THE TEXTBOOK & READING GUIDES**  You are expected to read the chapters in the textbook that correlate to each unit of study. To deepen your understanding, you will probably need to read the chapters more than once and take notes. For some of the sections of the textbook (usually those that we have less time to cover in class) you will also be required to complete and turn-in Reading Guides. *Reading Guides must be your own work.* If you choose to type your answers, you must turn-in a hard copy Reading Guide and submit it electronically via the Turnitin website. **TESTS**  You will be assessed using objective tests and timed writings at the end of each unit of study (typically, every 2-3 weeks). Tests and essays will be based on information from the class discussions, lectures, activities, readings, terms lists, presentations, homework, and the textbook. To prepare for the tests you should study throughout the unit and not simply the night before. You will need to have extensive and detailed knowledge of all the content and a deep understanding of the unit’s themes. Review sheets will not be provided. **ESSAYS** The ability to write an effective essay for the AP exam or for a college class is a skill developed through practice. The AP exam requires that students respond to Short Answer Questions (SAQ) and 2 essay questions that count for 70% of the exam score. One of the essay questions is a free-response question (FRQ) and one of the questions is a Document-Based Question (DBQ). You will frequently be required to interpret and analyze documents, and to write and edit essays that will be evaluated using the rigorous AP grading rubric. |
| ***GRADING*** | **SIX WEEKS GRADE**  70% Tests, Essays, Projects  30% Quizzes, Homework, and Class Assignments **LATE WORK** Because assignments are given to students well in advance, we expect all work to be turned in on the due date in the manner prescribed by the teacheror it will be considered late work*.* Late work will be penalized 30 points and will not be accepted after the unit test.  **MAKE-UP WORK**  Work assigned prior to an absence (and due the day of an absence) is due immediately upon the student’s return to class. Work assigned on the day of the absence is due within one week of the absence. Students who are absent for a test will take an alternate version. Students who have pre-arranged absences (athletics, field trips, doctor’s appointments) should plan to take their tests or timed writing assignments ***BEFORE*** their scheduled absence or at some other time determined by the teacher. Students are responsible for picking up any handouts, getting copies of notes from classmates, and making an appointment to take any make-up quizzes or tests they may have missed.  **TEST CORRECTIONS & RETAKES**  From time to time the APUSH teachers may opt to offer students the opportunity to recover points by completing test corrections or re-taking a test. Only students who have turned in all assignments related to the unit and completed the terms list will be eligible. |
| MATERIALS ***&***  ***SUPPLIES*** | Students should bring the materials for the current unit of study, a pen/pencil, and notebook paper. Students DO NOT need to bring their textbooks or materials from prior units of study unless specifically instructed to do so. Keep ALL your work until after the AP Exam!  **SUPPLIES**  Please donate ONE of the following items: Kleenex OR one ream colored copy paper |
| ***TEXTBOOK & OTHER RESOURCES*** | *America’s History* by Henretta is the college-level text issued to Bowie students. Students are encouraged, but not required, to purchase one of the privately published APUSH review books available either online or at a local bookstore. Make sure you select a 2015 edition that reflects the changes in the APUSH exam format. |
| ***ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM*** | The APUSH exam is a standardized exam developed by The College Board and will be administered in the Bowie library on Friday, **May 6, 2016**. The cost of the test is approximately $90 ($23 for students who qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch). All students taking this class are expected, but not required, to take the AP exam. The scores are reported to colleges on a 5-point scale: 5 – extremely well qualified; 4 – well qualified; 3 - qualified; 2 – possibly qualified; 1 – no recommendation. College credit is only awarded by the student’s chosen college. Colleges vary in what score they require to award credit (all Texas public universities award credit for a score of 3, 4, or 5). Students are encouraged to find out what score their intended college requires. |
| ***CONDUCT*** | Students are expected to be in attendance and on-time to class, be respectful of their surroundings, stay unplugged from all electronic devices unless otherwise directed by the teacher, and to exhibit a willingness to engage in the learning. |
| ***SUGGESTIONS*** | The key to success in APUSH is consistent effort and improvement. **It is essential that students do more than just complete graded homework assignments; they must study regularly in order to develop a deep understanding of the historical themes and demonstrate proficiency using the historical thinking skills.** Students should not become discouraged if grades seem low at first. This is normal as students adjust to the rigors and demands of college-level work. Ultimately, we hope that students who take this course will be better prepared for college and become excited about learning history.  **Flexible Instructional Time (FIT**) sessions will be very valuable! Students should stay apprised of ALL of the APUSH FIT offerings (Widner, Floyd, and Brett) and participate regularly in those sessions. |
| ***APUSH TEAM CONTACTS*** | Mrs. Widner: [rwidner@austinisd.org](mailto:rwidner@austinisd.org) / www.widner.weebly.com  Mrs. Floyd: [cfloyd@austinisd.org](mailto:cfloyd@austinisd.org) / [www.floydap.weebly.com](http://www.floydap.weebly.com)  Ms. Brett: [kaylin.brett@austinisd.org](mailto:kaylin.brett@austinisd.org) / www.apbrett.weebly.com |