

Advanced Placement United States History
(APUSH)
Plano Senior High School

Goals of APUSH:

- **Provide well-rounded content.** This is a rigorous course that moves quickly and is devoted to developing a deeper understanding of American history. You will have to confront controversial issues head on and deal with them in a thoughtful manner that considers multiple points of view. You will have to go beyond the study of presidential trivia in order to gain a full understanding of the forces that have shaped this nation, its history, and its people. Addressing the questions of what America is, what it means to be an American, and where America is going will be a driving force in our curriculum.
- **Develop skills that will serve you in college.** This is a college-level course, and it will require college-level work. Part of the purpose of this class is to help you develop study skills, note-taking skills, writing skills, speaking skills, reading skills, analytical skills, and a work ethic that will serve you well in college and beyond.
- **Prepare for the AP exam.** We deliberately save this goal for last. The bottom line for many parents and students is that this class sets students up to take the National AP exam and gain college credit. We sincerely believe that, if we achieve our first two goals, this one will take care of itself. We do not *teach* to a test; we *test* to the test. We have designed our assessments in class to prepare our students for the format of the exam. This means that essays will be timed, and that exams will be longer than they may have seen in the past.

Course Textbook: *Give Me Liberty! 3rd Edition*, Eric Foner

Course Website: classroom.google.com (PISD student credentials required); Each teacher will have specific classroom codes for their individual classes. Please communicate directly with the teacher to get the code for your class.

Grading Format:

<i>Grade Type</i>	<i>Detail</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Major Grades	Multiple Choice & Short Answer Tests, Free Response Essays, Document-Based Questions	60% of grading period
Daily Grades	Reading Quizzes, Classwork, Homework	40% of grading period
Portfolio Grades	Discussion, participation, various daily work to be prepared for class at teacher discretion	Varies, typically averages into 2 daily grades per unit

Late Work Policy: Portfolio and daily assignments will lose 20% if they are turned in the day after they are due. No credit will be given after that. Major assignments, such as projects, will lose 20 points each day after they are due.

Make-up Work: Students who have an absence on the day that an assignment is due, or on the day of an in-class assessment, are expected to turn in the assignment, or make up the assessment, on the day that they return to school. If the teacher deems that making up an assessment that day is not feasible, the student is expected to make-up that assessment within one week.

Tutorials: APUSH teachers will be available Thursdays during lunch, both A and B block, for tutorials and other times by appointment. See individual teacher's Google Classroom for more information.

Collaborative Assignments: Over the course of the year, we will do a number of assignments in collaborative groups for major grades. Individual student grades on these assignments will fluctuate based on individualized components of these assignments.

We understand that extenuating circumstances sometimes arise. Students are strongly encouraged to be advocates for themselves and maintain open lines of communication with their teachers. This is a skill that will serve them well in college and the workplace.

Other Helpful Tips:

- **Develop a long-term vision.** Visit the College Board's website (www.collegeboard.org), to access information on the AP program, the SAT, and financial planning information. In addition, students and parents can access information on colleges and universities, including their policies for AP credit.
- **Feel free to contact us.** Over the course of the year, if you have questions or would like to discuss your performance in class, feel free to contact us. The best way to get in touch with us is via email, using the e-mail addresses below.

The AP US History Team

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