AP US History: Course Expectations

**Instructor:** Mr. Bailey

**Room:** 401

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**What is an Advanced Placement Course?**

A course that bears the AP College Board designation is taught as a freshman level college course. The texts and readings are more difficult and require excellent reading comprehension. The content will be more in-depth with additional reading and writing requirements. The pace of the class will also be accelerated to cover all the requirements of the AP curriculum. Students take an exam at the end of the course to demonstrate their mastery of the course content.

**Why take an AP Class?**

To prepare yourself for success in college and to show admission officers that you are willing to challenge yourself. Students who score a three or higher on the AP Exam may qualify for college credit or placement. For class rank purposes only, AP classes at Quaboag are weighted as one grade higher than the final grade received. The AP exam is a nationally recognized and accepted standard exam. It will provide you and colleges with information about how you compare against all the students in the United States that took the exam that year.

**The Exam:**

The Exam is given in early May. All students who complete the AP course must take the AP exam. The exam is over three hours long and includes multiple-choice, short answer questions and several essays. Students who do not take the exam will not receive AP weighting in calculating their G.P.A. and the course will not include the AP designation on their transcript.

**AP US History Curriculum:**

AP US History covers the spectrum of American history from pre-Columbian days to the present. Using chronological and thematic approaches to the material through the lens of AP Historical Thinking Skills, the course exposes students to extensive primary and secondary sources and to the interpretations of various historians.

**Student Access to AP Classes, Prerequisites, and Learning Accommodations:**

**Any sophomore, junior, or senior student can sign up for and take the AP Social Studies classes offered at Quaboag for that year. These classes have a summer reading assignment but no prerequisite. Students who have an IEP, 504, or other educational plans or learning accommodations must have their parents along with the school’s AP site Coordinator apply to the AP College Board to get approval to have these accommodations implemented during the exam. Learning Accommodations that are on a school based plan may be implemented in the classroom by the teacher but cannot be implemented on the exam unless approved by the College Board.**

**Cost:**

The AP exams cost approximately $95. The fee tends to increase a few dollars each year. Students are expected to pay this cost prior to testing. Students concerned about this cost should talk to their guidance counselor.

**Mid-Term and Final Exam Policy:**

All students will take a Midterm and Final Exam. The Final Exam will be an assessment to be determined by the teacher as the AP US History Exam is May 6th.

**Student Expectations:**

Students in AP US History are expected to read 50+ pages a week, complete outlines, write essays, complete projects, and take quizzes and tests weekly. Expect to have homework each night of the week including assignments over the weekend and vacations. Students need to have their book and notebook with them each class as well as a binder that acts as a warehouse for outlines, worksheets, readings, and assessments. You can see by the timeframe of this course and the material that needs to be covered that the pace will be quick. If you have a tendency to miss school often, succeeding in this class will be difficult. If you are absent it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. I will not track you down and badger you for missing work.

**What You Can Expect on a Daily Basis in Class:**

This class will be largely student-centered. Students are expected to be prepared to discuss readings and lead discussions on a daily basis. Students will also be required to collaborate with other students in a group setting in a productive manner. Non-participation is not an option. You will not succeed if you do not contribute. Internet access is key to this class as you will be required to go online and access resources at home. Much of your work will be done at home and class time will be spent discussing and analyzing historical issues. Pop quizzes on the nightly readings will be frequent…so be prepared. AP classes thrive on the curiosity, passion and drive of the students who enroll.

**Late Work:**

Late homework is not accepted. Larger writing assignments and projects will lose 10 points every day they are late eventually resulting in a maximum grade of 50%. In order to succeed, I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to keep up with the workload. Past experience shows that there is a direct correlation between completing assignments thoroughly and on time throughout the year and success on the AP Exam. In short, if you do not do the work it is highly unlikely you will pass the exam. This is a rigorous course and must be taken very seriously in order to achieve success.

**Grade Weighting:**

Tests, Projects, Major Writing Assignments-60%

Quizzes, Classwork, Smaller Writing Assignments-30%

Homework-10%

**Office Hours:**

I am available for extra help after school by appointment.

**Detach and return**

**Mr. Bailey-AP US History**

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**Please sign below if you read and understood the course expectations. Please return by Friday, September 4.**

**Print Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent or Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**