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

Mr. Bower - Room #210

Class Rules, Procedures, Policies, and Requirements

😊 Welcome to a new school year! I look forward to teaching and getting to know every student as we embark on our U.S. History adventure together!

Welcome to APUSH! You have chosen to become part of a dynamic and challenging class that will test your intellectual abilities. While not necessarily difficult, this class requires a great deal of commitment in terms of work habits, self-discipline, and time management. Reading, listening, note-taking, and striving for improvement are essential for success.

**Writing/Typing Analytical Essays**

Writing analytical essays is a major part of APUSH. This type of writing requires using facts and explanations to prove points. There will be plenty of explanation and practice on APUSH essays during the school year, so please be willing to listen and work on your writing.

• AP DBQ (Document-Based Question) Essays: Graded on a 7-point scale, just like the AP Exam. A rubric will be provided.

• AP LEQ (Long Essay Question) Essays: Graded on a 6-point scale, just like the AP Exam. A rubric will be provided.

• Multiple-Choice Content Tests: Regular tests (paper & online) and in-class SAQs (short-answer questions) based on the APUSH exam.

**Grading Breakdown**

• Major Grades (Tests, Essays, Major SAQ Assignments): 40% of your average (2-3 Major Assignments per 6 weeks). Major unit tests will be given 4 times a year, covering 7-8 new chapters each time. Each unit test will be cumulative and consist of AP-level multiple-choice questions.

• Minor Grades (Classwork, Quizzes, Minor Writing Assignments): 60% of your average. This includes homework, classwork, quizzes (both announced and unannounced), and other general coursework. Class participation is crucial for understanding and retaining content.

• Extra Credit: In accordance with county policy, extra credit will not be part of grading.

**Helpful Hints for APUSH Success**

1. Read, work on notes, review, and utilize online resources almost every night.

2. Analyze information, don’t just memorize it.

3. Avoid procrastination.

4. Don’t get overwhelmed or overly frustrated; we will all have our moments.

5. Ask questions and seek help; your fellow AP-ers and I are here for you.

6. Study groups can be very beneficial if used correctly.

7. Be mentally and physically prepared for class every day (positive attitude, book, notebook, laptop, pens & pencils, etc.).

8. Attend school regularly; AP classes and absences don’t get along.

**\*\*Remember, AP classes are designed to be similar to college courses. Are you ready?! Please take a moment to read the important school policies listed on the back of this page.**

**Let’s have a great year!**

**Late Work Policy**

All work should be submitted on the DUE DATE as notified in class or online. Each submission day after the due date will incur a 5% grade penalty, up to a maximum 25% penalty. Any grade penalty incurred will be indicated in Canvas and Infinite Campus. Work that is not submitted after the 5-day window will be marked as “Missing” in Canvas and Infinite Campus and will earn zero points.

**Cell Phones and Electronic Devices Policy**

The RCSS Student Code of Conduct, Rule 16, states that the use of cell phones, electronic communication devices, and/or accessories (including some tablets, smart watches, earbuds, and earphones) are prohibited for all students at all times during the instructional day, defined as the time the student arrives on campus until the end of the school day. Penalties are described in more detail in the Code of Conduct, but they range from confiscation of the device to suspension, which would result in disciplinary probation at DFA. Personal iPads & tablets are NOT allowed.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy**

The RCSS Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance (including the use of AI when prohibited) or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty will be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher and a supervising administrator, taking into consideration any written materials, observation, or information from witnesses.

Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will receive 3 hours of detention. Additionally, the task will be entered as an incomplete and the student is required to re-do the assignment or re-take the assessment.

**Relearn and Reassessment (R&R) Policy**

Opportunities are offered to remediate unsatisfactory scores on MAJOR grades. These opportunities are offered once per assignment, but each R&R plan (including the reassessment itself) must be completed within seven school days of receipt of the original grade. The R&R form indicates the requirements that must be met to be eligible for the opportunity.

**Make-up Work Policy**

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class. Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. Teachers should provide reasonable timelines for completing make-up work. Generally, such work should be completed within 5 days of returning to school. A student should not be required to take a quiz or test on their first day back to school if the assessment was first-announced during their absence. Graded assignments should be scored to accurately reflect the level of mastery of standards.