**AP US History**

**2025-2026**

Instructor: Mr. M. Williams Room: 118

Email: WilliMa6@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us Tutoring: Available by Appointment



Greetings!! Welcome to a new school year at Hephzibah High School. I look forward to having you as my student for U.S. History. Below is a preview of some basic things to expect so that we can have a successful year.

What Is AP US History?

AP (Advanced Placement) US History is a history experience that focuses more on evidence and investigation than knowledge and memorization. Rather than students being attentive listeners, it requires students to become detectives and dissect artifacts to uncover historical truth and come to a greater understand of history. Expect a much stronger reading component, a much stronger writing component, and a much more complex engagement with historical information than one might find in a normal history classroom!

Also, at the end of AP US History, students are given the opportunity to undergo AP testing. If a high enough score is achieved, students receive college credit for their high school course. **Take this opportunity seriously**, it can really work to your benefit!

**Materials**

I recommend:

* 1:1 Laptop (Provided by school) – BRING TO CLASS EVERY DAY!
* 1 Spiral notebook, college-ruled
* 1 Composition Notebook
* Loose-leaf college-ruled paper
* Pencil or pen (blue or black ink)
* Highlighters
* Coloring Pencils

This class utilizes a textbook entitled **AMSCO Advanced Placement United States History**. The book will be available online; be sure to bring your laptops DAILY. We will also utilize the online textbooks **A Nation Conceived in Liberty** and **United States History**, both found on Canvas. Notes will also be provided via slide presentations and Word documents. Loose leaf paper/notebooks are recommended for note-taking by hand when discussions are held amongst class; laptops may also be utilized for note taking via word processor apps.

**Course Description**
This course focuses on the study of the US development, from our country’s inception to modern day. We will look at the nation’s government, people, culture, legislation, significant figures, and critical moments to gain an understanding of what America’s legacy truly is. In times like these, there may be some intense discussion, and we will learn how to navigate critical analysis of our nation in a way that is intelligent and respectful, but honest and accurate.

**Course Objectives**

This class is designed to create students who have a full understanding of the nation of which they call themselves citizens:

* Able to explain the origins of our nation
* Able to explain the economic underpinnings of our nation
* Able to point to the significant figures who have shaped our nation
* Able to explain significant legislation that sets the rules for our nation
* Able to critically analyze historical documents
* Able to point to definitive moments in our nation’s history

**Course Outline (Subject to Change)**

**1st 9 Weeks**

Turtle Island/Indigenous America

Pre-Colonial Period

Colonization/Colonialism

Jamestown vs. Plymouth

**2nd 9 Weeks**

Revolutionary War Era

Two-Party System Emergence

Industrial Revolution

Civil War

Reconstruction

**3rd 9 Weeks**

Gilded Age

Turn of the Century/Progressive Era

World War I

Roaring 20s

**4th 9 Weeks**

Great Depression

World War II

Cold War

Modern Era

**Curricular Requirements** - These are requirements specific to AP; a general expectation of skills to be acquired by AP students (excerpted from AP source material)

CR1 The teacher and students have access to a college-level U.S. history textbook,

diverse primary sources, and multiple secondary sources written by historians

or scholars interpreting the past.

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CR2 The course provides opportunities to develop student understanding of the

required content outlined in each of the units described in the AP Course and

Exam Description (CED).

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CR3 The course provides opportunities to develop student understanding of the

course themes.

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CR4 The course provides opportunities for students to develop Historical Thinking

Skill 1: Developments and Processes.

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CR5 The course provides opportunities for students to develop Historical Thinking

Skill 2: Sourcing and Situation.

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CR6 The course provides opportunities for students to develop Historical Thinking

Skill 3: Claims and Evidence in Sources.

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CR7 The course provides opportunities for students to develop Historical Thinking

Skill 4: Contextualization.

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CR8 The course provides opportunities for students to develop Historical Thinking

Skill 5: Making Connections through the application of the three historical

reasoning processes (comparison, causation, continuity and change).

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CR9 The course provides opportunities for students to develop Historical Thinking

Skill 6: Argumentation.

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**Classroom Policies and Discipline Procedures**

The discipline policy of the Richmond County School System and classroom management policy will be obeyed. The first violation of classroom disruption will be recorded, and the student will be advised on how to correct the situation. The second offense will be documented, student will be advised on how to correct the situation, and a parent or guardian will be contacted. The third and subsequent violation will be referred to the administration, and a parent or guardian will be contacted. Severe violations of RCBOE Code of Conduct will result in immediate removal from class and a disciplinary referral to the office.

* Students will arrive to class on time and prepared
* Students will be respectful to instructor, staff, surrounding students, and themselves.
* Students will hold themselves accountable for their actions, work, and attitude.
* Electronic Device Policy:

Cell phones will not be utilized throughout the campus, classrooms included. Students caught with their phones out will be asked once to turn it off and put it away. Further issues will result in confiscation of the device by the facilitator or an administrator. We have provided 1:1 device to students for school use; laptops should be brought to class every day with the expectation that there will be a technological component.

**Academic Honesty**

All students must complete their own work. If caught cheating, a grade of ZERO will be entered and flagged in the Parent Portal of Infinite Campus. Copying or photocopying another students class work or homework is cheating. Using another student’s notes or answers on a test or quiz is cheating. Referring to and/or copying from an online resource is cheating. A.I. assignments will not be accepted, as this is also cheatingl.Students will not be able to re-submit assignments if they are caught cheating.

**Grading Scale**

Grades will be divided into two categories:

**Minor Grades - Formative Assessments(class work, quizzes) 60%**

**Major Grades - Summative Assessments (essays, tests, projects) 40%**

*Expect to have preparation assignments which are not graded, but which are necessary for your mastery of the subject matter. You will need to complete these assignments before you can complete your major/minor assessments.*

**Assignment Submission**

Students will have a **5-day grace period** from the day an assignment is given to submit their work. Each day late, the assignment will be docked 5 points. After the 5th day, the student (and parent) will need to conference with the teacher regarding the assignment.

**Contact**

Within the first several days of class, students will receive codes to Remind.com. This is a free service that allows the teacher to send text/email alerts, updates, and reminders. Parents can choose to sign up for Remind as well. I may also be reached through email: WilliMa6@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Parents and students can also access assignments and course content on the teacher’s website page.

I have read this syllabus and I understand the content and requirements for the year. I understand that this syllabus is to be kept in the front of my notebook after it is signed by my parent/guardian. I understand that course expectations may change due to time constraints or other unavoidable circumstances.

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 Signature of Student Signature of Parent or Guardian