

LEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

AP U.S. HISTORY COURSE EXPECTATIONS

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What is it?

Advanced Placement U.S. History is a two-semester course designed to teach American History and prepare students for the Advanced Placement U.S. History Exam offered in May. The exam consists of 55 multiple-choice questions, three short answer questions, a free response essay and a Document Based Question (DBQ). Students who receive passing scores of three, four, or five are eligible to earn college credit for United States History from most universities.

Course Purpose:

This course has several purposes. First and foremost, students will learn U.S. history and government. The course is also intended to teach students to analyze, evaluate, categorize, and utilize information.

Students will be taught how to effectively write historical essays using this information.

Assessments will include one or more of the following per unit:

- Stimulus Based Time Period Tests
- Quizlet Term tests
- Time Period Appropriate Projects
- DBQ Essay Writing, Long Essay Writing, and short Answer writing
- Formative Assessments

Writing assignments will accompany each unit of study in the form of short answer questions, a free response or document based question, or a combination of those. All essays will be written in class. All essays will be scored according to the rubric used by the College Board. **First semester only, students will have an opportunity to redo essays and short answers. Second semester, I may or may not allow students to redo written assignments.**

Projects and group presentations are integrated into the course. The grade weight of these assignments will be determined according to its level of difficulty and complexity.

Tests:

A comprehensive test will follow the completion of each time period. These tests are designed to be rigorous in order to challenge students at the AP Exam level. They are composed of 45 to 50 multiple choice questions which are stimulus based. The multiple choice questions follow a reading passage, map, or political cartoon. We will also have terms test and dates test.

Outside Reading and Class Discussions: Supplemental reading may be assigned to accompany each unit of study. Class discussions may follow a Socratic Circle format which will assess student participation along with the analysis and application of the documents. A rubric will be used to calculate each participant's grade.

Formative Assessments: Homework and daily assignments including but not limited to charts, graphs, primary sources, questions, study guides, etc.

Attendance/Makeup Work Policy:

Attendance in this class is essential. Much of the material for success is provided through lecture/discussion/class work. Missing class can create problems.

- **Deadlines are firm and no work will be accepted late.**
- **If you check in or out of school on a day when a long-standing assignment is due, you are expected to turn in the work on that day even if you miss my class.**

- An NI is not an excuse for not meeting a deadline.
- **No homework is accepted late as the assignment is normally discussed during class.** While some exceptions may apply, a class absence is not an excuse for not meeting a deadline.
- **No project or assignment for which advance notice is given will be accepted late.** If a student is absent the day the project or assignment is due, he/she needs to make arrangements for the project to be delivered to me before the end of the school day. If a written assignment is due, the student may email it to me provided it is submitted before the end of the school day on the due date.
- **Tests are announced well in advance.** Those who are absent the day prior to an assessment are still expected to take the test if they return to school the day of the test/assessment. **If a student misses a test, he/she will be given a discussion test as a makeup test. However, if you make up the test before a known absence you do not have to take a discussion test.**

Makeup work is defined as work assigned during a student's absence, not work assigned prior to an absence.

All missed work and assessments are the responsibility of the student when they are absent from school.

- A student who is absent on the class day before a regularly scheduled assessment will be responsible for completing the assignment on the regularly scheduled day and time.
- For **unexcused absences**, students can turn in work for a maximum grade of 70. Absences are discouraged and should only occur when necessary.

*** Excused absence** – students are allowed up to three (3) school days to complete the assignment for a maximum 100% credit. This does not include major projects or long-standing assignments where the deadline has been posted in advance

- **Unexcused absence** – students are not allowed to make up work for unexcused absences.

PLEASE NOTE: Any student who copies another student's work, allows his/her work to be copied, who uses a source and does not cite the source, or who quotes from a source without using quotation marks will be given a 0 on the assignment and there will possibly be further consequences.

Comprehensive Class Exam

At the end of the first semester, all students will take a semester final exam.

Grading Policy

Tests	40%
Essays (free response and DBQ)	25%
Short Answer	20%
Formative Assessments	15%

**Grades will be based on the point system. For example a short activity may be worth 20/20 points; however, a more in depth complex assignment may be worth 100/100 points. For example, a test with 50 questions each question may be worth 3 points. All grades entered into the computer will also compute a percentage point.

At the end of the year all students will be required to turn in notebooks. All graded work will remain in the classroom in a folder.

Study Techniques:

- The reading load is considerable, especially in the first 7-10 weeks. In order to cover the maximum amount of material with the least amount of stress, becoming a part of a study group is definitely

encouraged. Each student is expected to **read all text material**. **Students are responsible for understanding all of the material for testing.**

- **Time management is an essential skill for this class**, and you must take the responsibility for budgeting your time. As you become accustomed to the course format and texts, things will fall into place and become easier. It is important to **not get discouraged**.