**Ms. Elizabeth Gifford**

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**AP United States History Syllabus**

**Texts:**

1.   16th Edition ***American Pageant***Textbook 2016, Kennedy, & Cohen   
   
2.   ***United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination***, Newman & Schmalbach

**Course Description**: A.P. U.S. History is a rigorous, college-level course designed to prepare students well for the A.P. Exam given nationally each year in May. It is a yearlong, two-semester course that covers the period from Native American cultures and European exploration and colonization up to the present day. A premium will be placed in this course on reading, writing, and discussing themes in history and evaluating historical documents (both primary and secondary sources) with the goal of developing critical thinking skills and improving students’ writing in history.

**Required Supplies:**

Grading Scale:

* 90% - 100% = A
* 89% – 80% = B
* 79% – 70% = C
* 69% – 60% = D
* 59% & below = F
* Binder (preferably 2 in)
* 1 package of divider tabs for binder
* Loose leaf paper (no spiral notebooks)
* Black/blue pens
* Highlighters
* Post it tabs

**Topics of Study:**

1. Discovery and Settlement of the New World, 1492-1650  
  
2. America and the British Empire, 1650-1754  
  
3. Colonial Society in the Mid-Eighteenth Century  
  
4. Road to Revolution, 1754-1775  
  
5. The American Revolution, 1775-1783  
  
6. Constitution and New Republic, 1776-1800  
  
7.  The Age of Jefferson, 1800-1816  
  
8. Nationalism and Economic Expansion  
  
9. Sectionalism  
  
10. Age of Jackson, 1828-1848  
  
11. Territorial Expansion and Sectional Crisis  
  
12. Creating an American Culture  
  
13. The 1850s: Decade of Crisis  
  
14. Civil War  
  
15. Reconstruction to 1877  
  
16. New South and the Last West  
  
17. Industrialization and Corporate Consolidation  
  
18. Urban Society  
  
19. Intellectual and Cultural Movements  
  
20. National Politics, 1877-1896: The Gilded Age  
  
21. Foreign Policy, 1865-1914  
  
22. Progressive Era  
  
23. The First World War  
  
24. New Era: The 1920s  
  
25. Depression, 1929-1933  
  
26. New Deal  
  
27. Diplomacy in the 1930s  
  
28. The Second World War  
  
29. Truman and the Cold War  
  
30. Eisenhower and Modern Republicanism  
  
31. Kennedy's New Frontier; Johnson's Great Society  
  
32. Nixon  
  
33. The United States since 1974

**Course Methods of Assessment:**

Students are primarily assessed through chapter exams and reading quizzes. Chapter exams consist of multiple choice, identify, open response questions and essay. Daily quizzes will relate to assigned text and/or assigned primary source documents. Students are also required to complete DBQs, compare and contrast, argumentative, persuasive, and change over time essays. Students will also take a mid-term and final exam. All assignments/exams will be assessed promptly and placed on database for student/parent grade evaluation. Students will receive these assignments and due dates with proficient time to complete and return when due. I will use remind, google classroom, and our database to ensure students and parents are aware of all assignments/exams. See my late assignment policy below for additional information. Students will also be expected to:

* Read articles and documents in order to analyze and better understand United States history.
* Construct and analyze maps in order to develop and strengthen geography skills.
* Perform research skills needed for college classes.
* Write essays in order to develop proficiency and fluency as a skill.
* Present information to classmates to demonstrate knowledge of topics covered.

**Teaching Strategies**

Teaching strategies for this course include lecture through power point presentations, student based presentations, document/photo/cartoon analysis, and student led discussion. There is also an emphasis on independent reading and analysis of text and primary source materials, both written and visual. Students are provided a study guide prior to each chapter.

**Class Policies & Procedures:**

* Come into class prepared. This requires you have all your supplies, book, and any homework assigned that is due.
* Be in your seat with your binder and book on desk before the tardy bell rings.
* Do not ask to leave the room (bathroom, nurse, locker, et…) once you enter the classroom unless it is an emergency and you have teacher approval.
* Please be respectful of your classmates and their educational journey. This requires respect across the board while in the classroom. Disrespectful behavior towards a student or teacher is not tolerated.
* I expect each and every student to come to class ready to open their minds and give 100% effort daily. As I was taught, “If you are going to do something, do it right!”
* Please do not hi-light or write in the textbooks; however, if you have purchased your own AMSCO books please underline, hi-light, write notes in the margin, et…. You get my drift.
* All school rules in the student handbook will be applied in our classroom.

Don’t forget to sign up for Remind!

