



Advanced Placement United States History Bishop Kenny High School, 2011 – 2012 **SYLLABUS**

Course Information

Course # 212 – AP United States History

Teacher: Mr. Michael Broach, Room 113 (E-mail: mbroach@bishopkenny.org)

Available: Before School from 7:00 – 7:55 AM and After School until 3:00 except Wednesdays (2:00 PM).

Class Website located at: www.broachweb.com/classes (also available at www.bishopkenny.org)

Course materials and updates located in Schoology

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide a college-preparatory survey of United States History from the pre-Columbian period to the present day. Furthermore, this course will cover the content necessary for the National AP[®] United States History Examination.

Due to the advanced nature of this course, participation will include outside reading, various assignments and papers, and active class discussion. It is imperative that each student commit to active participation, completing assignments and readings on time, and allotting the necessary time for study.

Textbooks and Course Materials

The textbooks used in this course are:

Kennedy, David M., Lizabeth Cohen and Thomas A. Bailey. The American Pageant. 14th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2010. **Referred to as “Kennedy”**

Newman, John J. and John M. Schmalbach. United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination. New York: AMSCO School Publications, 2010. **Referred to as “AMSCO”**

Otherwise, you should have a notebook and folder or binder for organizing handouts. I expect you to be prepared each class day. As Juniors, it is your prerogative of how to organize for this class – but do organize! Good organization is one of the many keys to success in any academic course.

Class Schedule, Routine Procedures, Absenteeism, and Tardiness

Schedule

The schedule of assignments and topics covered in class will be given at the beginning of each unit in a timeline format available in Schoology. Since these schedules are subject to change, you should bring your copy to class each day.

In addition to the unit schedule, a **COURSE OUTLINE** will be made available. This is your guide to the overall topics covered in this course. In addition, this outline will serve as a study guide for the AP exam.

Routine Procedures, Tardy / Absent Procedures

Class will begin promptly each day. Immediately at the sound of the bell, students should stand for prayer. After prayer, attendance will be taken and class will begin.

Students who arrive to class late will be marked tardy. The consequences for being tardy are:

1st Tardy = Cafeteria or Classroom Duty

2nd Tardy = Cafeteria or Classroom Duty

3rd Tardy = Referral to Dean of Students

If you are absent, you must present your green re-admit slip upon returning to class. Only students with excused admit slips will be permitted to make-up work. Furthermore, **it is the responsibility of the STUDENT** to know what make-up work is necessary after an absence.

Make-up Policy

For missed assignments, classwork, or other activities, students have **one (1) day** after returning to school to complete missing tasks. For example:

Absent from School on MONDAY; Return to School on TUESDAY – obtain missing assignments
Assignments due on WEDNESDAY

For missed tests and quizzes, the policy is:

- (1.) If the test or quiz was announced in advance (and it almost always is), then you must complete it or make arrangements to do so on the day of your return either in class or before/after school by appointment.
- (2.) Tests are always announced in advance, but if an unannounced quiz or assignment is missed, then you must meet with me immediately upon return.
- (3.) Any other circumstance will be handled on a case-by-case basis within the appropriate guidelines.

As students in an AP course, you are responsible for all exams and assignments, and knowing exactly what you have missed if absent.

Classroom Procedures / Expectations

Since we cover a large amount of material in this college-level course and in our preparation for the AP Exam, proper behavior and conduct is expected at all times. The general expectations for students are listed below. **Students are expected to have read the BK Parent-Student Handbook.**

- ✓ Students should arrive to class on time;
- ✓ Students **MUST** be in proper uniform at all times. This rule is strictly enforced. Please refer to the uniform code in the 2011-2012 Parent and Student Handbook;
- ✓ All class members must actively participate;
- ✓ Students are to stay on-task with what is going on in class. This means that talking to others at inappropriate times, not paying attention, or misbehaving in class should not occur and will not be permitted;
- ✓ Students may not write on the desks or deface anything in the room, or anything that belongs to someone else;
- ✓ Students must show respect at all times – to the teacher, fellow classmates, to Bishop Kenny.

The basic expectations to succeed in this class, at Bishop Kenny, in college and in life:

Be... Punctual, Prepared, Respectful, Responsible

Failure to abide by these guidelines will result in disciplinary action. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated at any time. This is especially important when the class participates in group or seminar-style discussions. Every person has a valid opinion and has the right to participate – disrespect towards fellow classmates during these types of activities will result in negative consequences.

Normal Classroom Procedures (i.e. where to turn-in papers, etc) will be explained on the first day of school.

It is my hope that you will enjoy and benefit from the time we spend in class, however, this will only be possible with the cooperation of everyone.

Use of Technology

Various online tools and other technology will be used in this class. You are expected to read and abide by the **Papers and Electronic Communications Policies** ([linked here](#)).

Honor Code

Students are expected to maintain honor and integrity in this class, at Bishop Kenny High School, and in life. **Students should carefully read the Honor Code sections of the Parent-Student Handbook.** This is the policy for this course. Any plagiarism, cheating, copying of other sources, or violations of academic integrity will result in a “zero” for the task (whether it be a test, assignment, etc) and a referral to the Dean of



Students.

Grading Policy and Course Content

The grading policy for AP U.S. History is:

Exams	45 %	Writing	25 %
Quizzes/Presentations	20 %	Activities	10 %



Exams **45% of Class Grade**

Exams are administered usually three times per quarter and will cover several chapters of both texts and sections of the Course Outline. Test dates will be announced well in advance.

The exams will be designed in order to adequately evaluate your knowledge of the material and multiple choice questions will be in AP-exam format. These are intended as both assessment and preparation tools.

Quizzes and Presentations **20% of Class Grade**

Quizzes will be given on a periodic basis, either scheduled or random. Furthermore, “pop reading quizzes” may be given at any time.

In addition, any **major projects** (other than writing) or **formal class presentations** will count in this 20% category. A specific rubric of how you will be graded will accompany each assignment.

Writing **25% of Class Grade**

Paper assignments will be assigned each quarter, with the exception of the fourth quarter. You will be notified in class of when a certain paper or project is due, as well as instructions on how it is to be accomplished and how it will be graded. Quarterly paper assignments may count twice within the writing category (the actual weight will be announced with each assignment). **Formal papers will be submitted online to Turnitin.com. Please see the separate document on Papers & Electronic Communication for policy information.***

In addition, periodic essays will be conducted in class and out of class to assess learning and practice for the national AP exam. The two types of essays are the **document based question essay (DBQ)** and the general **free response question essay (FRQ)**.*

It is important to understand that even though this is only 25% of your grade, writing is a necessary component of the AP curriculum. Writing responses consist of 50% of the actual AP examination.

*Note – late writing assignments are subject to point deductions.

Activities (Homework / Classwork / Participation)

10% of Class Grade

Homework and classwork will be given occasionally to re-enforce class material. Extensions on assignments are **only** granted in extreme cases and when pre-arranged (well before the due date). **Otherwise, late work will receive a 50% deduction the first day late and is not accepted thereafter.**

Classwork could include lesson-related activities, group activities, **seminar discussions**, small group discussions, etc. In the event of discussion-type activities, students will receive a rubric on how the activity will be graded.

Online Activities – Periodically, online review activities will be assigned via the textbook’s website or other websites. We will also have periodic **online discussions** and **online activities** using a wiki site. Please see the separate Papers & Electronic Communication document for policy information. **ALL STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR READING THESE POLICIES.**

Class Participation

Class Participation is vital to making this class work. Your participation always affects your performance. You must participate in class and continuously focus and stay organized. Negative participation and misconduct will negatively affect your performance in class.

Readings



In order to adequately cover all topics on the course outline, students will be responsible for reading on a routine (usually daily) basis. The readings for each week will be listed on the unit timelines. Reading comprehension will be periodically checked by reading quizzes.

Readings will include selections from Kennedy’s *The American Pageant* and the AMSCO Review book, as well as primary source documents and some secondary source documents.

Review Sessions and Out-of-Class Activities

Before each unit exam, I hold a **“History for Breakfast”** review session in the Cafeteria from 7:15-7:45. This is an opportunity for you to have any last minute questions answered or to simply benefit from the discussion.

I will also hold periodic review sessions throughout the year on special topics in history and sessions to assist you in college-level writing.

Furthermore, all students are asked to attend the **AP Mock Exam**, held in April. More details about this activity will be announced in the year.

The AP® United States History Examination

The national AP U.S. History exam will be administered on **Friday, May 11, 2012 at 8:00 AM**. The material that could appear on the examination is found on your course outline. The format of the exam is as follows:

Total Time Allotted: 3 hours, 5 minutes

Sections:

PART I: 80 question Multiple Choice Test (55 minutes)
Each MC question has 5 viable options
50% of the composite score

PART II: Three Free-Response Essay Questions
50% of the composite score

15-minute reading time for the DBQ
(Document-Based Question)

** The DBQ consists of an essay question that allows the student to read several primary source documents and integrate the information from the documents along with the student's knowledge of the topic or time period.

Contiguous Writing Section:

Part A: 45 minutes to write the required DBQ response

Part B: 35 minutes to select and respond to one of two essay questions

Part C: 35 minutes to select and respond to one of two essay questions

Total scoring by sub-section:

Multiple Choice (50%); Document-Based Question or DBQ (22.5%); Part B Essay (13.75%); Part C Essay (13.75%)

Areas addressed by the multiple choice exam:

Political Institutions, Behavior, and Public Policy	35%
Social change, and cultural and intellectual developments	40%
Diplomacy and international relations	15%
Economic developments	10%

Pre-Columbian to 1789	20%
1790 to 1914	45%
1915 to Present	35%

Source: 2006-2007 College Board AP Course Description for United States History

How will we as a class prepare for the AP Exam?

We will discuss the major themes of American History in class and will have daily discussions based on the readings as well as outside information.

Periodically, I will assign homework or classwork from the AMSCO book or online to help you review for the exam as well as review for upcoming tests and quizzes. Also, occasional "AP Review Activities" will be assigned in order to review broader themes and topics in U.S. History.

Exams given throughout the year, as well as the Midterm Exam, will have multiple choice questions similar to the types of questions that could be asked on the AP exam. In addition, essay assignments are given to adequately prepare for the writing component of the exam.

Each quarter, we will conduct DBQ essays and/or free response essays in class. This consists of having an entire class period to take a DBQ that has appeared on a previous AP exam.

In addition, a full-length **mock exam** will be administered on in April to also help prepare for the AP exam. **DATES: Sat., April 21, 2012 (8:30 am) or Make-up by approval only: Mon., April 23, 2012 (3:00 pm)**

These methods, combined with the course outline, will give you the necessary tools to study for the exam.

What about study guides available in book stores?

There are several study guides available at local booksellers for the AP US History Exam. If you would like to purchase one to study with, that is fine. However, you should be very careful in selecting these guides. I definitely encourage you to avoid any sources which use selling points like “cracking the exam” – the exam cannot be cracked, it is a survey exam of history! Success on the AP Exam, as well as in this course, is based on your knowledge of United States History, not some secret code.

Does Mr. Broach know what material will be on the AP Exam? NO!!!!

The content of the AP Exam is secret. Each year, once all exams have been taken nationwide, the DBQ and Free-Response Essay questions are released online. Therefore, I do have access to every essay question that has appeared since 1978. The Multiple Choice questions, though, are secret and do change periodically. The College Board has released a few previous versions of Multiple Choice sections and I will give those to you throughout the year.

Web Help / Online Resources

A variety of online resources will be used for this class.

Class Website:

www.broachweb.com/classes

Class Portal / Schedules / Materials:

www.schoolology.com

Images used with permission from:
www.firstnetsource.com
www.ace-clipart.com