AP US HISTORY- aka “APUSH” 2014-15

Welcome!

The course is rigorous and requires copious amounts of both reading and essay writing in order to prepare you for success on the AP exam. To ensure your success in both of these arenas you will have reading and writing assignments as well as class discussions. In addition, your overall success will be determined by your compliance with the following requirements:

**OBJECTIVES**

The APUSH course is designed to provide students with analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with problems and materials in US History. Students should learn to assess historical materials –their relevance to a particular issue, their reliability, and their importance – and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship.

Students will:

* Master a broad body of historical knowledge
* Demonstrate an understanding of historical chronology
* Use historical data to support an argument or position
* Differentiate between historiographical schools of thought
* Interpret and apply data from original documents, including cartoons, graphs, letters, etc.
* Effectively use analytical skills of evaluation, cause and effect, compare and contrast
* Prepare for and successfully pass the AP U.S. History Exam

You are expected to read independently the chapter corresponding to each area of study. You should read the material prior to class discussion of the topic in order to ensure your ability to participate. Class will be a combination of lecture, group work, coverage of discussion questions, and answering student questions. Periodically, student essays, reports, or presentations will be required.

The following rubric will be used to determine the nine-week grade.

Grades are based on the following:

Homework 40%

Quizzes/Tests 60%

Semester Final \* 20% of Semester Grade

**Retakes**:

Unit Exams= NO!

Quizzes= D or F; You may retake for 1 week after it’s returned and you MUST pre-arrange the time.

**Absences/ Make- Up work:**

Late and Missing Work:

You are expected to complete and turn in all assignments at the beginning of the class period, or when collected by your teacher.  Time management and responsibility are important life skills to learn while you are still in high school.  In APUSH class, that means turning in assignments completed by you and on-time.  If you do not turn in assignments on time, there will be consequences in terms of grade deductions.

According to school rules, if you are absent for a School Activity that does NOT exclude you from turning in assignments and getting assignments on the planned date. If you are excused absent, you need to turn in assignments that were due of the day of the absence(s), on the day you return.  School rules will be followed with multiple day absences.  If you miss a test, you need to arrange a time at the teacher’s convenience to make up the exam.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

To minimize distractions in the classroom, there is a limited tolerance for electronic devices (cell phones, gaming, and music devices, etc.) Devices seen or heard will be confiscated, sent to the office, and released to the student at the end of the day. A second infraction will require a parent/guardian to pick up the device from the office.

**Materials:**

I recommend that students have a 3 ring binder with dividers, 1 notebook for a “history log”, paper and writing utensils. Please bring them to class daily( book too!). You will need to compile a portfolio of your work at the end of each semester for a grade(?).

**DBQ’s and Free Response Questions:**

Students will be required to complete a minimum of 1 DBQ per quarter. Free Response Questions will be completed in the form of a 5-paragraph paper-which supports your answer with specific evidence. DBQ’s will be given out by the teacher over specific materials.

**Grade Scale:**

A= 90 to 100

B= 80 to 89

C= 70 to 79

D=60 to 69

F= 59 and Below

**Any Questions contact me at:**

**Amy Brown-Luke**

**515-457-6835 or brownlukea@urbandaleschools.com**

Please read the following with your parents. The paper must be signed by both you and your parents- Return by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, parent of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_p. \_\_\_\_ have gone over the course expectations for AP Psychology for the 2014-15 school year.

I understand that:

1. Homework is considered late if turned in after it has been collected by the teacher and my student will points. They should see Make-up work policy on rules.
2. I know that grades are determined by:
   1. Homework
   2. Quizzes/ Tests
   3. Semester Final- 20% of the grade.
3. To receive college credit for AP Psychology my student must take the AP exam in May 2015.
4. That I have discussed with my student the appropriate time for using their electronic devices (cell phone) is not during class.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student signature