**Advanced Placement United States History**

**Instructor: Ms Lawrence**

**Welcome to Advanced Placement United States History!** The author and civil rights activist James Baldwin once remarked, “American history is longer, larger, more various, more beautiful, and more terrible than anything anyone has ever said about it.” As we go through the challenging and enriching adventure known as APUSH, we will seek to analyze our shared history through this lens: the terrible and the beautiful. What are our shared values & ideals? What have we done right and where have our strivings fallen short? We will be addressing these questions and so many more.

There are several goals for this course. The course is designed to prepare students to operate at the college level and become independent learners who can identify their knowledge & skill levels to gauge their own educational choices for life long learning. In May students take the AP Exam to measure their progress. To achieve this, we will be studying content as well as honing critical reading, writing & thinking skills through debates, discussions, and analysis of historical documents. Students draw on their World History foundation to examine the United States in a broad context. This course is divided into historical time periods and also analyzes themes present throughout American history. The themes we will trace through history include: a) identity, b) politics & power, c) ideas, beliefs, & culture, d) peopling, and e) work, exchange, & technology. Students will be expected to complete numerous reading and writing assignments at home; class time will be spent analyzing various issues in American history. This course will be demanding and rewarding; **hard work** and **dedication** will be vital to your success.

**Text**:

Henretta, James A., et al. *America’s History.* Eighth Edition. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2014).

\*Please note that you are financially responsible for any and all damage to or loss of assigned textbooks

A variety of scholarly articles, essays, and editorials will be assigned, at the instructor’s discretion, throughout the year. Please refer to your unit homework schedule or our class website, [www.lawrenceapush.weebly.com](http://www.pondoapush.weebly.com), for homework information.

**Course Objectives:**

Students will

* Demonstrate mastery of a broad range of United States history
* Identify various themes that define our American experience
* Analyze and evaluate historical documents
* Write clearly and effectively as a student of history
* Take and defend positions on historical issues using both primary source documents and textbook reading

**Homework and Assignments:** APUSH requires a heavy workload. **Students should expect at least three hours of homework each week**; this will MAINLY consist of reading, either out of the textbook, or from additional materials. Preparing for tests, quizzes, and other assignments will take additional time. Unless you have an excused absence for the ENTIRE DAY, **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED**. You are responsible; make sure your work is here when it needs to be, turned in at the BEGINNING of class. If you are ill or absent, use the web-page to keep up with the class.

**Tests:** Unit tests will consist of both multiple choice and writing components. Quizzes will be given periodically throughout each unit, and will focus mainly on material from the textbook. **Make-ups for tests/quizzes must be taken within three days of returning to class.**

**Method of Evaluation:** Grades will be based on a point system. Points will be given for tests, quizzes, homework, in-class assignments, group projects, reports, presentations, essays, and class participation. A traditional grading scale will be used to determine grades (i.e., 90%-100%=A, 80-89%= B, etc.) **Students need a 60% to pass APUSH.**

Grades are weighted as follows:

Homework/Unit Packets: 20%

Tests and quizzes: 40%

Writing and Projects: 40%

**Attendance, makeup work, and tardies:** Please note that attendance is important. I’m here every day; you should be too. PHS attendance & make up work policy will be enforced.

**Please note that if you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to first, see if you can take care of business on your own using the webpage; second, see Ms Lawrence for any clarification on all make up work. If you are on campus at any time on a day an assignment is due, the work must be turned in that day in order to receive credit, whether or not you are in this class.** Work may be made up before or after school, during my prep period, or at lunch. All assignments and homework should be turned in upon your return. Assignments given during your absence will be due the day after your return. **Please note that if you do not have an excused absence, you may not make up missed work.**

**EXPECTATIONS:**

In order to assist the class in running more smoothly, I will need your cooperation in the following areas:

1. Bring your notebook, pencil/pen, and paper each day to class.
2. Be in your seat by the time the tardy bell stops ringing and begin answering the daily warm ups (Daily Journals)
3. Be positive, cooperative, and respectful toward all others.
4. Follow all directions.
5. SCHOOL TARDY, DISCIPLINE & MAKE-UP WORK POLICIES WILL BE ENFORCED
6. SILENCE & PUT AWAY ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES BEFORE ENTERING THE CLASSROOM. Thank you!

I look forward to a year of growing and learning and am excited to get to know you as we work together this year. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or other feedback via email dlawrence@eduhsd.k12.ca.us or leave a voice mail at 677-2281 ext. 2356.

Sincerely,

Ms Lawrence

[www.lawrenceapush.weebly.com](http://www.lawrenceapush.weebly.com)

**Curriculum Calendar:** (TENTATIVE schedule subject to change at instructor’s discretion!)

I have read the guidelines established for this class and understand what is expected.

## Student signature printed student name

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Parent/guardian signature printed parent/guardian name

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