Advanced Placement United States History 11

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**Office Hours**: M, Tu, Fr (7:30-8:05)

**Required Books:**

Your textbook is:

Kennedy, David. Cohen, Lizabeth. The American Pageant, 16th edition. Cengage Learning.

Berman, Stacie Brensilver. Epstein, Mark. Fast Track to a 5: Preparing for the AP United States History Examination, to accompany The American Pageant.

The above will be issued to you. The AMSCO American History Review Text and the Kaplan Review Text are also required for the course. Although I do not specifically assign reading from these texts, I encourage you to use them in a capacity that helps you to better comprehend the historical events. They are available for purchase in the library if you do not have them.

You will rarely, if ever, need to bring any books to class. I have plenty of resources here that will suffice for anything we need to do.

**Course Description**: This course is designed as a freshman survey course in the study of the history of the United States beginning with the period immediately following Reconstruction up to the present. Furthermore, the purpose of the course is to prepare students for the successful completion of the Advanced Placement United States History exam.

**Course Objectives**: Understand that my goal is to prepare you for the Advanced Placement United States History Examination, which is held in early May. To that end, everything that we do in here is designed with that goal in mind.

**General Guidelines:**

1. Please refrain from eating and drinking in class.

2. When asking a question or making a comment, please raise your hand. Always respect the opinions of others since historical analysis can sometimes yield widely varying opinions on historical events.

3. My room is typically neat and clean and I would like it to remain that way. Please dispose of any trash in the proper fashion.

4. Please be in your assigned seat when the tardy bell rings.

5. Please make every effort to use the restroom before or after class.

6. Please do not use various electronic devices without getting prior approval from me.

7. Please avoid doing homework from other classes in this class.

8. The bottom line is that respect is a two way street.

**Tardy Policy:** My door is typically locked. If you realize you are late, go to the main office to get a late pass. I suggest that you do not make this a habit.

**Attendance Policy:** The excusing of your absence is up to you. Make-up work WILL NOT be available for UNEXCUSED ABSENCES. If you are not here, please make sure to excuse your absence with the office. Check the calendar on the board and my website to keep up to date on what you might have missed.

**Class Supplies:** I ask that you have a pen (blue or black) and your notebook (see the end of the syllabus for an explanation of this) each day. In the event that you need to bring your book(s) to class, I will let you know ahead of time.

**Disciplinary Procedures:** The following will happen in order if you do something to disturb the learning environment:

1. Verbal suggestion

2. Call to the parents and possibly a parent conference

3. Referral to administration

**Cheating:** Few things bother me as much as cheating. The punishment for cheating in my class will be very swift and severe. In short, the last thing you want me to do is to catch you cheating.

**Participation:** A small portion of your grade is based on your participation in class. Come to class each day prepared and be an active student in class. Avoid sleeping, texting, doing outside homework, and other general shenanigans to ensure your participation grade remains a 100.

**Make Up Day:**  If you are absent for a test/quiz, you can make it up via A.O., during another class, or before school on most days. Unfortunately, after school is not typically an option. You must make an appointment to do this.

**Grade Breakdown for the Course:** The percentages below represent the formula for how you receive your grade in this course:

20% Lecture/Discussion Exams

30% Reading Quizzes

20% Timed Essays

10% Class work and homework

10% Group assignments and projects

10% Participation

I reserve the right to slightly alter this formula under certain circumstances. Nonetheless, every effort will be made to adhere to it to the best of my ability.

**Grading Scale:**

100-90 A

89-80 B

79-70 C

69-60 D

59 and on F

**Late Work**: Late work will, at times, be accepted with a mandatory deduction of 30 percentage points each day it is late. Avoid turning in work late!

**Extra Credit:** The very nature of extra credit is unfair to students who earn grades without such help. To this end, extra credit will not exist in this course unless it is for extraordinary circumstances. If you anticipate being absent, please let me know so I can forward any and all work to you so that you do not fall behind. If your grade is low because of your own doing, do not rely on extra credit, you will be disappointed.

**Notebooks:** I strongly suggest you keep an organized and up to date notebook for this course. The type of notebook is entirely up to you. You will receive many notes in here and it is best to be organized, especially in lieu of the A.P. Exam.

A very ambitious schedule indeed! While considerations have been built into the schedule for various events of a distracting nature (Pep rallies, inclement weather days, fire drills, etc), please understand that unexpected events will occur. Thus, this schedule will be slightly altered. Nonetheless, I understand that Stamper will be fanatic about our adherence to it.

**The Stamper Principles for personal and academic success in APUSH 11**

1. I will take exemplary notes and use a format that best suits me so that I retain information. Studies show that handwritten notes are better than typed ones, hence, Stamper does not allow notes to be taken electronically.

2. I will have a grasp of the material before we analyze it in class. I know I will get more out of the discussions this way. This helps me to avoid falling behind with the readings in that we do move quickly through the curriculum.

3. The Pageant is long and the reading dense and I must avoid reading it like a novel. There are a lot of details to absorb and Stamper highly suggests breaking the reading up. I will hit it in bits and give myself time to think, ponder, and come to terms with what I am reading.

4. My grade point average is important to me and not to Stamper. His priority will always be the acquisition of knowledge.

5. Stamper believes in quality over quantity. If he assigns something, he will grade it with great care. He will not give me “busy work”.

6. If I need help, I need to ask Stamper. He cannot read minds. Furthermore, everyone has a different barometer for success in school.

7. I will not write like I speak. Writing is an exhaustive, intense, and emotional art and I will keep it that way.

8. I understand that it is difficult, but not impossible to receive an “A” or “F” in this course.

9. I will complete every task Stamper assigns because I will ultimately need the grades.

10. The responsibility for knowing the material lies with me, not Stamper.

11. If Stamper senses a level of personal devotion from me to this class, then I can expect the same back. If I shut down on him, he will do the same.

12. An absence from school does not mean a test/quiz is moved from the original date. I have an assessment schedule for a reason. I will adapt and overcome obstacles placed in my way and not try to “game” the system. Stamper will crush me if I engage in this sort of unethical behavior. I should expect any quiz, exam, or timed write I miss to be given to me upon my return of school.

13. Gray is the best color for APUSH 11.

14. I will learn the topic, not just what Kennedy says. Kennedy is offering his account and accounts among historians will, to a degree, vary.

15. I understand that there is no way to get around doing the work this class requires.

16. Try as I might, I will not be able to outsmart Stamper. He is a sinister person.

17. I might have to work harder than others, because I will have to. This is the way the world works. Our brains are different from one another.

18. Because of the nature of this class, I can succeed or fail. Thus, it is all about the work.

19. I will not believe others when they tell me that they do not read. This is a lie.

20. Just because I watch the History Channel does not mean I understand this material. I must be diligent and disciplined about reading. This is what separates the strong from the weak.

21. Pressure, intensity, and intelligence make some A.P. students cheat. Stamper trusts no one. I will not cheat.

22. I must be an “active” reader.

23. I know that memorizing harder does not work. I must understand the how and why, not just the what and where.

24. Stamper wants me to learn and have fun in this course. These are his two goals for all of us.

25. Stamper aspires to preach the truth and I aspire to be the same. Sometimes it is ugly, sometimes it is beautiful, but it will always be what has happened.

26. In order to do good, Stamper must engage in evil. I know his harshness is for my own good and it will make me a stronger and more resilient student and human being.

27. Deadlines matter in life and here. I will meet deadlines to the best of my ability and not offer lame excuses in an effort to gain a strategic advantage over others. This is unethical and Stamper will make every effort to stop this behavior.

28. I make mistakes. Stamper makes mistakes. We will be civil to one-another when we make mistakes.

I have read and I understand and agree to the guidelines above.

Student Signature Parent/Guardian Signature

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