



COURSE DESCRIPTION

The AP United States History course surveys the history of America and the United States from the year 1491 to the present. The course provides students with the analytical skills needed to successfully participate in beginning and intermediate level college courses. The material presented is equivalent to that of a survey American History course in college and will be a worthwhile, though challenging, experience to students who take advantage of the texts, course presentation, and discussions throughout the year. The course will focus on the governmental development, political behavior, cultural patterns, and social institutions fundamental to the history of the United States of America.

THE TYPICAL CLASS – DAY TO DAY

AP United States History offers a diversified approach to content development. Once a week students will be required to listen to a podcast recorded by their teacher. This activity allows students to gather basic information from the period. Students may choose to read their textbook in lieu of the podcast. In-class activities range from short lectures to writing workshops.

TYPICAL HOMEWORK

Students do not typically have assigned homework in AP United States History. On occasion, teachers may ask students to complete a task that was too limited by time restraints in the classroom. Students are expected to understand their best individual study habits and be prepared for both formative and summative assignments.

ASSESSMENTS

Formative and summative assessments are integrated into the AP United States History course. Formative assessments are general Short Answer Questions (SAQs), which are a component of the written portion of the College Board exam. Other formative assignments are response questions done in class while listening to lectures. Students will also be scored on Long Essay Questions (LEQs) and Document Based Questions (DBQs). Unlike many standard or honors history courses, AP United States History requires a great deal of writing, which is incorporated into the course's grading policy. Students who are used to getting all A's on written assessments in other classes are often taken aback at the requirements and standards for AP United States History.

** The day to day lessons, homework, and assessments noted above are subject to change at the teacher and PLC discretion. The information above is put forth to help students and their families better understand the expectations of the course. Furthermore, multiple PVHS teachers teach AP United States History – no student should enroll for this course with the expectation they will get any one teacher in particular.*