

AP U.S. History  
Introduction Letter

Dear Students and Parents:

I am so excited that you have decided to take on the challenge of an Advanced Placement course, which is a university level course taught in high school. By taking this class, you should strengthen your academic, observational, discussion, writing, reasoning, and deductive skills. Students should expect an increased workload and should make time to review material outside of class, approximately one hour each day, in addition to the reading assignments.

The AP U.S. History exam is made up of four parts: Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs), Short Answer Questions (SAQs), Document Based Questions (DBQs), and Long Essay Questions (LEQs). This means more than half of the test is writing based; however, it is historical writing, which is different from what is expected in English classes.

There is no summer homework for this school year. The course textbook is through McGraw-Hill, and a link for the digital book will be provided for you through Schoology once school begins. We will also utilize the AP College Board website for additional resources (progress checks, instructional videos, etc.).

Part of entering an AP class is an assumption of a certain level of background knowledge and skills. In middle and high school World and U.S. History classes, you should have covered the Americas from the Indigenous Americans through the early European settlers and explorers. Assuming you have covered this material and just need a refresher to help you prepare for this course, I have included the following suggestions (not required):

- Suggestion 1: Purchase a copy of AMSCO Advanced Placement Edition *United States History, 4th Edition*; ISBN: 978-1690305507
  - Rationale - we only have a class set of the books provided by the school, and they cannot leave the room. This book covers the same information and is set up in units that match College Board course progression. Because it will be your copy of the book, you can highlight and annotate important information to help you prepare for the exam.
- Suggestion 2: View YouTube channel Heimler's History, specifically his playlist "APUSH Unit 1" where he reviews the material you need to know before the course begins.
  - Rationale - Mr. Heimler is a teacher who has spent years instructing AP history courses, and he is a reader for AP College Board written exams. His videos are revised each year to keep them up-to-date and relevant, and he will be a great resource throughout the course and up to the exam date.

Again, these are only suggestions, but I do expect you to be ready to jump in with content. I am looking forward to beginning this journey with you!

Sincerely,

Ms. Dawn Hannawi