

# Trinity Catholic High School A.P. U.S. History

Teacher: Mr. Bill Hartley: [bhartley@tchs.us](mailto:bhartley@tchs.us)

Room 2-130

## Introduction

Welcome to the Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH) class at Trinity Catholic High School. I am impressed that you have decided to challenge yourself by taking this course. The focus of APUSH is to prepare you to take the AP United States History Exam which is usually scheduled for the second Friday in May (that would be May 8, 2020). APUSH is a challenging course that is designed to be the equivalent of a freshman college course in a high school setting. By taking this class you receive a weighted high school credit and it also looks good on college applications. If you pass the national AP exam you may also receive a guaranteed college credit (depending on the college or university to which you apply).

We will be studying U.S. History from Exploration to the Cold War era, with emphasis on the period from the Revolution to World War Two (which is most of what is covered by the AP exam). Good reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote a fair amount of time to outside reading and studying are necessary to be successful in this course. APUSH is a demanding but enjoyable class requiring extensive, yet concentrated, knowledge in US history.

## Course Materials

The textbook for this course is Alan Brinkley's American History; there will be a hard copy of the book available for checkout when we gather in August, and I will post pdf's of the textbook on the Class Wall in Renweb as well. I am attaching the link to the student resources for the text which you will need for test purposes; this includes a set of 20-30 multiple choice quizzes for each chapter:

[http://glencoe.mheducation.com/sites/0076621367/information\\_center\\_view0/](http://glencoe.mheducation.com/sites/0076621367/information_center_view0/)

Students must spend time preparing for this course by doing the following:

1). Bookmark on your device the AP Central homepage for U.S. History:

[http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/exam/exam\\_information/225908.html](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/exam/exam_information/225908.html)

Take time to “surf” this site and get familiar with it. There is much valuable info literally at your “fingertips” here. You can find sample questions for each of the four

parts of the APUSH test: multiple choice, short answer, long answer, and the document-based question. This site also offers past essay questions used on the test, as well as samples of actual scored student writing prompts, along with the rationale for the score each received.

2). Download the AP United States History Course Description on your device, which can be found at the AP Central US History homepage:

<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/repository/ap-us-history-course-description.pdf>

This is the official publication of AP Central and nothing will appear on the exam that is not laid out in the course outline in the guide. Spend time reading through this publication, highlighting parts you think are important, and anything you want to ask questions about when we gather as a class in August.

3). Buy the following two prep books:

A). United States History: Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination (2020 Edition) by John J. Newman and John M. Schmalbach, AMSCO Publishing. ISBN-13: 978-1531116927 (We will refer to it simply as, “AMSCO”.)

You are best off with the most recent edition, as it conforms to the latest modifications the College Board has made to the APUSH exam. The newest copies of this book (AVAILABLE IN JULY) can be ordered at:

<http://www.amscopub.com/us-history-preparing-for-ap-exam>

The 2019 edition will suffice if you can't get the 2020.

Equally important is:

B). AP U.S. History Crash Course Book, Larry Krieger (3rd Ed., Revised, January 2015). This is an older edition of the book, revised to suit the new test format, but a book that contains supplemental chapters focusing on several topics that consistently appear on the exam (Women's History and African-American History in particular). It is a brief yet very thorough review of the basic material that consistently appears on AP exams. These older editions can be purchased used at Amazon.com.

It is also worthwhile to purchase the 4<sup>th</sup> edition, released in the past year that contains supplemental information on the latest changes adopted for the test in the fall of 2017 (ISBN-13: 978-0738612263). This book contains a thorough overview of the main themes in American History, as well as practice questions in the new test format adopted in 2014 by AP Central.

The combination of the “Crash” book along with the Course Description Guide and the AMSCO book, will serve you very well in the class and will eliminate the need to buy any other prep books.

### AP U.S. History Summer Assignment

Every APUSH student is required to complete the following assignment over the summer before the first day of class. **IT WILL BE DUE ON MONDAY, AUGUST 19th.** I recommend starting this assignment as soon as possible.

- 1) Read and annotate (highlight, write in the margins) the Introduction of the AMSCO book, which provides a thorough overview of the composition of the exam.
- 2) Read and annotate Chapters 1-15, which covers Pre-Columbian history through the Civil War era.
- 3) For each chapter, write a 10-15 sentence summary about the historical period. Focus on the cause and effects of major events presented throughout the chapter. Make sure you have headings that clearly delineate each chapter, and start a new summary on a fresh sheet of paper.

Summaries must be handwritten and will be submitted to me on Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. **YOUR SUMMARIES WILL BE YOUR FIRST FORMATIVE GRADE.**

- 4). During the week of August 19th, depending on the schedule for that week, you will take an AP style multiple choice test over the material presented in AMSCO, 1450-1877. You will be able to use your notes on the test, but not the book itself. **THIS TEST WILL BE YOUR FIRST SUMMATIVE GRADE.**

The goal of this assignment is simple; APUSH is a survey course and the volume of content that we are expected to cover in less than 10 months is daunting. The AMSCO book is a well-written and concise summary of American History, focusing

on topics that appear repeatedly on the exam. The value of this assignment will become apparent to you as we get into the course.

I look forward to having you in our class this coming school year. If you have any questions feel free to email me at [bhartley@tchs.us](mailto:bhartley@tchs.us) or stop by my classroom (2-130) or check in with Mrs. Hartley who will be in the President's office most days this summer, and she will pass along your questions or messages.