PRE-AP US HISTORY SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

**Teacher:** Caryn Howell  
**Office Hours:** Tues. 2:45-4:00  
**Phone:** 978-946-0711 ext. 60205  
**Email:** caryn.howell@lawrence.k12.ma.us  
**Classroom:** A205  
**Edmodo Code:** 2ch9g9

**Note:** Feel free to text (339) 545-1345 for questions about specific assignments or the course.

**Course Description:**

This chronological survey course focuses on significant political, social, and economic developments in the nation’s history. Students will concentrate on the growth of our diverse population, the evolution of the US political system, the rise of the US economy, cultural change, and interactions with the rest of the world. This is a writing intensive course that draws on students’ ability to analyze primary and secondary sources to craft analytical essays as well as position and research papers.

**Materials:**

Class Materials:
- Pens: blue, black & red ink
- Pencils
- White, college-ruled filler paper (4 packs)

**Textbook:** *America’s History*, 8th Edition by J. Henretta, E. Hinderaker, R. Edwards and R. Self  
**Supplementary Texts:** *A People’s History*, by Howard Zinn; Primary Sources such as City Upon a Hill, Letter of John Pory, and works by Bartolome de Las Casas and Juan Gines de Sepulveda

**Means of Evaluation:** The list below generally describes the assignments that each student will be expected to complete during the course. Guidelines for each assignment will be distributed individually.

- Assessments (Tests, quizzes, essays, projects) (50%)
- Notebooks/Classwork (Binders, class activities) (30%)
- Homework (Notes, AP practice) (20%)
- **Marking Period** (100%)
**GRADING SCALE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97 - 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 - 96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 - 86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 - 76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 - 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 - 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65 - 66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 - 64%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

- An “A” grade represents outstanding work that is good enough to be shown to other students as an example.

- A “B” grade indicates better than average work that demonstrates excellent effort and understanding.

- A “C” grade is assigned to work that demonstrates competence but does not display any attempt to shine.

- A “D” grade indicates work that is lacking in some important way.

- An “F” is a failing grade. It will be given if an assignment or exam is not submitted or is extremely poorly executed, or in the case of plagiarism or other failure to adhere to norms of academic honesty.
**Class Procedures:**

Upon entering Room A205, it is the responsibility of the student to:
1. Be seated and ready to begin work when the bell rings.
2. When you take your seat, please take out your homework and place it at the top of your desk.
3. At the start of class, please immerse yourself in the Do Now and work silently. It will always be clear what you should be doing when class starts.
4. Please tuck your backpacks and other materials you will not need underneath your desk.

The goal is for our class to run like a college seminar on history. That means that you may get out of your seat if you have a reason to do so during independent or group work. Procedures and expectations are generally simple: be ready to work hard, be respectful and make good decisions, and keep our class safe and clean.

If you miss class, any printed work will be available in the labeled folders at the back of the room. Please pick this work up at the beginning of class when you return. It is your responsibility to follow up with the teacher or a classmate about what you missed.

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**A205 Classroom Expectations:**
1. Engage with the material, ask questions, and give your best effort during all parts of class.
2. Keep our shared space clean and collegiate at all times.
3. Respect each other and treat each other with kindness and compassion.

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**LATE POLICY:** Please see below for detailed late policies about missing work in AP US History.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>TIME LIMIT &amp; PENALTY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>Homework will be accepted <strong>up to 3 class periods</strong> after it is due. For example, if a set of notes is due on Tuesday A Day, the last day it will be accepted is Wednesday A Day. As soon as notes or HW is late, the grade will drop to a 50%.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classwork</td>
<td>If you are absent, check with Ms. Howell regarding whether or not you should turn in the missed classwork. You should review all missed work, but not every classwork will be collected. Classwork should be turned in <strong>no more than 2 periods</strong> after you return from an absence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major Writing Assignments (SA, LEQ, DBQ)</td>
<td>Writing assignments that are given as in-class graded assignments have the same late policy as tests and quizzes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tests &amp; Quizzes</td>
<td>If you are absent the day a test or quiz is given, please make arrangements to make it up outside of class time within 4 school days.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>Late projects will be accepted up to 5 days after they are due. Each day a project is late, 10% will be deducted from the final grade.</td>
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**Extensions**: Because we have a great amount of information to cover and skills to build this year, extensions on assignments will not be granted, except in extenuating circumstances. If you know of a reason that you will need additional time on an assignment, or if something comes up and you need one, please come talk to Ms. Howell.

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**Absences/Tardies**
Attendance is mandatory. Students accruing more than ten unexcused absences in one class will receive a failing grade. This does not include excused absences which are religious observances, approved campus activities or field trips, or a serious illness, medical / family emergency. Excused absences require official written documentation (such as a signed note from a parent, physician, or teacher).

Students are expected to arrive to each class on time. Students will be marked tardy if they are not in their seats by the time the bell rings. Students who arrive more than thirty minutes late to a class will be marked absent. Chronic lateness will negatively impact student grades. Three tardies equal one unexcused absence.

Students must let Ms. Howell know about extended absences (family trips, hospital stays, etc.) at least two weeks before the planned absence in order to provide time for alternative assignments.

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**Uniform**
Students are to be in uniform at all times. The uniform consists of an ALA black or maroon polo, khakis, and closed-toed shoes. Other acceptable garments include crew neck sweaters, fleeces, cardigans, or ALA track jackets in black, maroon, navy, or white. These garments must be solid colored and should not have any designs or stripes. Polo shirts must always be worn underneath these garments. Hooded sweatshirts and denim are not allowed in any way. Student cannot wear these garments through their arms. Students who have any concerns regarding uniforms should reach out to any ALA teachers or administrators who will help resolve any issues discretely.

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**Food/Drinks**
Students are not permitted to eat or drink anything other than water unless it is provided by the teacher and during Advisory/Study Hall. Students are expected to be courteous and clean up after themselves.
**Guidance Policy**
Students are required to set up appointments to meet during the school day with Ms. Tetrault, the guidance counselor. She also holds drop-in times before and after school and during Advisory.

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**Hall Passes**
Students should obtain a Hall Pass from a teacher to use the restroom or travel within ALA. Students are also required to sign-in/out when leaving and re-entering a classroom. A separate written pass is required to go to the nurse. Students cannot leave any given class during the first or final 10 minutes of class.

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**Academic Dishonesty**
Students are expected to maintain the highest level of academic integrity. When using ideas, words, and short passages from other people's writing, students are required to acknowledge the source. Failure to acknowledge the contribution of others is considered plagiarism. Submitting plagiarized work, failing to properly cite or fabricating sources, and any other academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the given assignment and further disciplinary action. Students will not be allowed to make up any plagiarized work for credit. Plagiarism includes copying directly from the internet, a book or article, or another student’s work (with or without their permission). In order to avoid these issues, students are encouraged to speak with any teacher or administrator if they have any questions (no matter how small) about their work or citing sources.

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**Special Needs, Academic Honesty, Misc:**

All students who have special needs please let me know as soon as possible.

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**Electronics Policy:**
- Cell phones should be put away and silenced during class time.
- If Ms. Howell sees or hears a phone, it will be relocated to her desk for the rest of the period.
  - The first time, it will be a warning to put the phone away. Note: This is only *one* warning for the entire school year.
- When we use laptops for class assignments, please do not open extraneous tabs.
- You may plug in headphones and listen to music while typing or reading on a laptop if it helps you focus.
**Final Takeaway**

Welcome to 10th grade U.S. History! I am immensely looking forward to the work that we will do together this year. Pre-AP U.S. History is an opportunity for you to prove that you can excel in a college-level course, and a chance to develop the critical thinking skills needed to understand how history has shaped us, and how we can shape it. I will leave you with the words of Maya Angelou:

“History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.”