

**NORTH POINTE PREP**  
**ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY (APUSH)**  
**Course Syllabus**

**REQUIRED READING:**

- Fraser, James. *By the People*. Pearson, 2015.
- Articles, web pages, and excerpts provided by the instructor

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:** Students need to have these items by Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.

- 1 sturdy three ring binder (2") with loose leaf paper
- Blue or Black Pens

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

AP United States History is a two-semester course that according to the College Board is:

*designed to provide students with the analytical skills and enduring understandings necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. An AP United States History course should thus develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in an essay format.*

In summary, this course will be a rigorous examination of United States History from the pre-Columbian Societies inhabiting the North American continent to the present. This course emphasizes reading and writing at the college level and the critical reading and analytical skills necessary to succeed on the AP US History exam and in future academic pursuits.

**COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS:**

Point Schools have identified 9 rules which all students are bound to uphold. The instructor shall enforce these rules in this classroom. Violations of these rules will be met with appropriate and fair consequences. These rules and consequences are:

- **Be on Time**  
 Students are required to be in their seats and completing the “Do Now” task before the late bell rings. Parents will be notified if a student is tardy to class and the teacher reserves the right to assign In-School Suspension to tardy students.

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- **Respect Yourself & Others**

Point Schools is committed to having a disruption-free environment within the classroom. Students who speak out at inappropriate times or inappropriately shall be verbally warned for a 1<sup>st</sup> offense. A second offense for such disruptions will be an e-mail to the student's parents explaining the situation. The consequence for causing a disruption a third time will be In-School Suspension and possible removal from the classroom by administration.

- **Be Prepared**

Students will come prepared for class with all required materials and assignments.

**Assignments:** This is an Advanced Placement Course that will at the discretion of the instructor require at-home reading assignments and homework. All assignments and exams will be due on their assigned dates. Late work will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor and students must ask for an extension before the assignment is due. All assignments that are late, without prior notification to and an agreement with the instructor, will receive a grade of ZERO. Assignments may be typed or handwritten unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Sloppy and/or incomprehensible assignments will not be accepted. Being absent the day before an assignment or exam does not excuse a student from taking that exam except in unusual circumstances.

- **Do Your Best Work**

Students will do their own best work. Students who plagiarize or cheat will face the consequences laid out in the Student Handbook which include loss of credit on the assignment up to and including In-School Suspension.

- **Maintain an Environment for Learning**

The best way to maintain an environment conducive for learning is to keep the classroom distraction free. Therefore:

***Cell Phones, Non-Educational Items, and Other Electronic Devices are not to be used, heard, or seen during class time without administrative approval.*** Students violating this policy for the first time will be verbally warned. Students violating this policy for a second time will be asked to place the device on my desk and that student's parents will be apprised of the situation via email. Students will be allowed to retrieve the object at the end of the **DAY**. Students violating this policy beyond that will retrieve that object at the main office at the end of the day and will face administrative discipline.

- **Keep a Positive Attitude**

- **Take Responsibility**

- **Dress Appropriately**

Students found in violation of the Pointe Schools Dress Code will be referred immediately to Administration.

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- **Use Your Time Wisely**

Unless confidentially noted as a symptom of a medical condition, sleeping in class is prohibited. The Instructor reserves the right to wake students up from naps during class time using very loud noises or slightly nudging the student's desk.

*Class Participation:* Students are encouraged to question their instructor at any time. Students are also encouraged to share their opinions at appropriate times.

*Restroom Use:* Students will be allowed to have a pass to the bathroom during class. However, Students should know that restrooms are to be used prior to the start of class or after the end of the class. If a student requests bathroom passes excessively, the teacher reserves the right to contact parents via e-mail explaining the situation.

## **TUTORING:**

The instructor will be available for tutoring before school (7:30am-7:55am), and after school (2:35pm-3:25pm). Appointments can be made by the student via email or in person but are not necessary.

## **MANDATORY TUTORING and ACADEMIC PROBATION:**

If a student is earning a grade of F, he or she must attend tutoring from 2:35pm-3:30pm Mondays and Wednesdays until his or her grade improves to at least a D. Before these tutoring sessions, students will consult with the teacher to complete an Individualized Academic Probation Plan. This plan is designed for students to commit to specific problem-solving strategies to improve his or her grade to at least a D.

The school day, per North Pointe policy, starts at 7:15am and concludes at 3:30pm. In this respect, students must attend tutoring sessions if their grade falls into the F range. Failure to report to or refusal to effectively participate in tutoring will be considered insubordination and subject to administrative action.

## **EVALUATION AND GRADING:**

You will be taking the AP United States History Exam at the end of the school year. This is non-negotiable. You must exert your full energies and efforts into ensuring that you grasp the course content in order to pass the exam. Students who fall below a C and show signs of not taking the AP course and exam seriously will be subject to teacher referral to administration for withdrawal from the AP program.

The APUSH Exam is **FRIDAY MAY 10th, 2019**.

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**Grading Philosophy:** Grading in this course will reflect a student’s achievement relative to the assigned coursework (i.e.: tests, quizzes, homework, class work, participation, group projects, etc.)

**Course Grading:** Each student will receive a letter grade upon completion of this course. This grade will correlate with the effort and achievement of individual students on class assessments and assignments. All assessments and assignments will be recorded in our Online Academic Resource as “Total Points”. All points, regardless of category (i.e.: tests/quizzes, Classwork, homework), will be weighted equally to the calculation of the course grade.

You may access our Online Academic Resource through our Student Grades link on northpointeprep.com.

**Semester Grades:** Per North Pointe policy, semester grades will be weighted as follows:  
45% (Quarter 1/3) + 45% (Quarter 2/4) + 10% (Final Exam) = Final Grade

**Academic Friday School:** Students who fail a semester core course are required to attend Academic Friday School from 12:15 pm - 3:30 pm the following semester to make up the credit. Students who fail to attend Academic Friday School are subject to disciplinary action.

Once enrolled, North Pointe does not accept course credit from other high school or online institutions.

**Instructor Contact Information:**

Parents and students are encouraged to contact the instructor with any questions via email.  
Email: ksmith@pointeschools.org

**Instructor Schedule:**

|                        |               |                        |            |
|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Period | AP US History | 5 <sup>th</sup> Period | US History |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period | Film Studies  | 6 <sup>th</sup> Period | US History |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period | US History    | 7 <sup>th</sup> Period | US History |

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am Kevin Smith and I teach 11<sup>th</sup> grade AP United States History and Film studies. These subjects are near and dear to my heart. My 11<sup>th</sup> grade APUSH teacher, the incredible James Molloy, inspired me through his passion and knowledge to pursue my career in teaching social studies. Moreover, for six long years, I sold tickets at a movie theater in upstate New York all the while discussing my love for film with customers, friends, and colleagues. US History and Film studies are my two true academic loves and I am honored to impart my knowledge upon your student all the while learning everything I can about these subjects and the teaching profession.

As for my credentials, I completed two years of my undergraduate work at Boston University in a social studies education program and completed my next two years at the State University of New York at Albany where I graduated with a BA in History with a Concentration in United States History with a Minor in Film Studies. I earned my Masters of Arts in Teaching Social Studies from The Sage Graduate School located in Troy, NY. I hold teaching licenses in the State of New York and the State of Arizona.

I am unfathomably excited to work with your young adult this year. In order to cultivate a safe and productive learning environment, students must arrive to class on time, focus on the task at hand, follow all directions and procedures, respect their peers and their instructor, and do their best.

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I am available before school from 7:30-7:55 and after school from 2:30-3:25 for tutoring.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions or concerns at any time.

Email: [ksmith@pointeschools.org](mailto:ksmith@pointeschools.org)

Kevin M Smith Jr.

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