

**NORTH POINTE PREP  
ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY (APUSH)  
COURSE SYLLABUS 2020-2021**

**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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

- 1 sturdy three ring binder (2") **SPECIFICALLY FOR APUSH**
- 1 packet of loose-leaf paper
- Blue or black pens
- Highlighters
- Pencils
- Access to an electronic device, Google Classroom, Zoom, and a web browser.

**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.

**EXPECTATIONS FOR ONLINE DISTANCE LEARNING**

Students are expected to uphold the Student Conduct Code, policies, and procedures put forth in the North Pointe Student Handbook whether attending school online or on campus. When attending school online, these policies still apply:

- **BE ON TIME:** You, the student, must be visible and audibly available via Zoom at the beginning of class until the end of class so Mr. Smith can take accurate attendance. If

*This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.*

there are any technical issues, you must e-mail Mr. Smith at [ksmith@pointeschools.org](mailto:ksmith@pointeschools.org) immediately explaining the issue so we can work together toward a solution.

- **Dress Appropriately:** Students are expected to adhere to the dress code outlined on page 22 of the Student Handbook while attending classes online via Zoom.
- **Maintain an Environment for Learning:** Students are expected to keep themselves muted unless instructed by Mr. Smith to unmute. Students are expected to remain respectful of all students in the digital classroom. Students are expected to have patience with technical issues. Students are expected to practice respectful digital etiquette.

### **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 may be notified if a student is tardy to class and the teacher reserves the right to assign In-School Suspension to excessively tardy students.
- **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 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 not be accepted. All assignments that are late, without prior notification to and an agreement reached 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. Tests must be made up within 2 days of the assigned test date.

*This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.*

- **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. Students' parents will be notified in cases of plagiarism and cheating. The teacher will know if a student steals information from Wikipedia or other sources on the internet. The teacher knows how to use Google.

- **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.*** These items will be held in students' backpacks during class time. Students violating this policy **THE FIRST TIME** will place their phones in the popcorn bin on the teacher's desk and the phones can be picked up after school in the 4A center. Students' parents will be notified. Student will also be assigned lunch detention to be served at the next available teacher's lunch.

- **Keep a Positive Attitude**

- **Take Responsibility**

- **Dress Appropriately**

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

- **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 to access the restroom five minutes after class has started until five minutes before class ends. Students must sign out and sign in on the class sign-in/sign-out sheet, but do not need a specific bathroom pass. However, Students should know that restrooms should be accessed prior to the start of class or after the end of the class during passing periods. If a student requests bathroom access 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.

*This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.*

## **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 to a C. Before these tutoring sessions, students will consult with the teacher in the completion of 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 C.

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.** Students who do not take the AP United States History Exam will not receive credit for the course. 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 **THURSDAY MAY 6th, 2021 @ 8:00 AM.**

**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 Social Studies Department policy, semester grades will be weighted as follows:

40% (Quarter 1/3) + 40% (Quarter 2/4) + 20% (Semester Exam/Final Exam) = Final Grade

**Core Class Failure – 8th hour and Friday School:** High school students who fail a core semester class are required to take an 8th hour class (2:35-3:30 M-Th) the following semester.

*This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.*

The student may also be assigned to Friday School (12:15-3:00). When a student fails a class, the teacher will complete an Individual Recovery Plan (IRP) noting the specific assignments to be completed by the student and/or the exam(s) the student must pass to prove competence of the standards. After the student completes the Individual Recovery Plan, they will no longer have to take the 8<sup>th</sup> hour class or Friday School. Students who fail to attend assigned 8th hour or Friday School are subject to disciplinary action and may have to repeat a grade.

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](mailto:ksmith@pointeschools.org)

**Instructor Schedule:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Period	APUSH	5 <sup>th</sup> Period	APUSH
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	Film Studies	6 <sup>th</sup> Period	CPUSH
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	CPUSH	7 <sup>th</sup> Period	CPUSH

*This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.*