

KAP AMERICAN HISTORY
2015-2016
MR. JOSEPH

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This is a survey course taught in conjunction with Kenyon College that will examine the evolution of the American Republic from the earliest days of discovery and colonization through today. Focusing on specific topics of history throughout the course, our primary goal will be to identify the larger themes that evolve and give American culture its uniqueness, including but not limited to, cultural diversity, growth of democracy, economic development, war, race, and reform.

Recognizing that history is dynamic, there will be an emphasis on examining evidence and differing interpretations of history to give you the ability and the experience to make your own considered judgments. In other words, I want you to think outside “the box.”

This course requires a great deal of independent work, self-motivation, the use of time management skills, and maturity. A college-like atmosphere will be maintained and college-level effort is expected.

Included in this syllabus are:

1. Books that will be needed for the first semester
2. Grade breakdown
3. Rewards for your hard work
4. A calendar of topics and assignments

First semester schedule:

1. This will help you if you're absent or miss class due to an excused absence.
2. All work is due on its assigned date. If you are absent, please email it to me or have it delivered. No late work is accepted.
3. Topics for the day may include lecture, readings, videos, presentations, etc.
4. Be flexible with the schedule. You know how things change around here.
5. Please take notes.

Books that will be needed the first quarter:

1. A Little Commonwealth: Family Life in Plymouth Colony by John Demos
 - a. Due September 4
2. Common Sense by Thomas Paine
 - a. Due September 25

Grading – will be weighted using the following formulas:

1. First nine weeks
 - a. Quarter exam 50%
 - b. Summer work/book projects 30%
 - c. Homework/Zinn/etc 20%
2. Second nine weeks
 - a. Exam 50%
 - b. Book projects 30%
 - c. Homework/Zinn/etc 20%

For your hardwork and effort, you will receive eight (8) semester hours of credit from Kenyon College. To achieve this, you must have at least a C or better average and have paid your fee. These hours are transferable to most Ohio colleges. It is very important to keep your syllabus and your work to show to college registrars in some cases.

Syllabus of topics for the year:

First semester –

Portuguese and Spanish settlements in the New World
English in the New World
The Thirteen Colonies
France and England fight for North America
The Road to Revolution
Framing a Constitution
America 1789-1812
The 2nd War for Independence
America 1824-1840
A Nation on the Move
The South and the spread of Slavery
Sectionalism and Disunity
Civil War

Second semester –

Reconstruction
Forging an Industrial Society
Progressive Reforms
World War One
The Roaring Twenties
The Great Depression
World War Two
Post World War Two
The Beginning of the Cold War
The 1950's and Civil Rights

The American 60's
Vietnam
The 1970's and Stagnation
The 1980's and Conservatism
Post Cold War
The 90's and Clinton
Turn of the Century
9-11
Obama's Eight Years
The 2016 Presidential Election