

KAP AMERICAN HISTORY  
2016-2017  
Buckeye Valley High School  
Instructor: Doug Joseph  
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HIST 101D: UNITED STATES HISTORY, 1100-1865  
(.5 unit credit) or 4 semester hours

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to United States history from the 12th century to the mid-19th century. Students will gain a more developed understanding of American history by examining the interactions among diverse cultures and people; the formation and use of power structures and institutions throughout the colonial, Revolutionary and antebellum eras; and the processes behind the "Americanization" of the North American continent. Central to this course is a comparison between two interpretations of American history; a Whiggish, or great American history, and the more conflict-centered Progressive interpretation. Not only will students gain a general knowledge of this time period, but they also will understand the ways in which the past can be contextualized. Students are expected to understand both the factual basis of American history as well as the general interpretive frameworks underlying historical arguments.

HIST 102D: UNITED STATES HISTORY, 1865-PRESENT  
(.5 unit credit) or 4 semester hours

This course is a thematic survey of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present. Students will examine the transformation of the United States from a rural, largely Protestant society into a powerful and culturally diverse urban/industrial nation. Topics will include constitutional developments, the formation of a national economy, urbanization and immigration. The course also will discuss political changes, the secularization of public culture, the formation of the welfare state, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War as well as suburbanization, the civil rights movement, women's and gay rights, and the late 20th-century conservative politics movement and religious revival.

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 2
2. Bloody Mohawk by Richard Berleth
  - a. Due September 23
3. Common Sense by Thomas Paine
  - a. Due October 10

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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