

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
SOSC 3450, AP US History
Course Syllabus

Course Description:

An accelerated course that studies the complete story of the United States utilizing lecture format, class discussions, and written expression in order to comprehend and complete the forty-two chapter text by the beginning of the fourth quarter. The remaining time will be utilized for thematic, multiple choice, and essay test review before the scheduled AP exam. The course is based on analytical and interpretive writing paired with a multiple choice section that resembles the AP format. Every unit concludes with a free response or document based essay question taken from prior AP exams. In addition to lecture, class time is spent discussing themes and developing historical document and artifact analytical skills.

Curricular Mapping:

This course will offer the accelerated student a platform to deepen understanding of content learned in the eighth grade history course as well as expanding the student's knowledge of this country's history. Concepts that will be taught in American Government the following year will also be discussed in an accelerated and challenging manner.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Analyze historical documents and explain their significance.
- Recognize bias and point of view, and describe their impact on the interpretation of history.
- Acquire an understanding of America's unique political and ideological heritage which will be expressed through projects and written assignments.
- Identify the ways in which American ideals have been claimed and applied throughout our history by various groups of people.
- Participate in critical thinking discussion and formulate higher thinking skills through the class discussion process.
- Write analytical and interpretive essays and complete multiple choice questions within a constricted time frame.
- Successfully complete the AP exam.

Text:

Your necessary digital texts for this class will be part of a "Required Course Materials Fee" through the EdTech bookstore. This is a bundle purchase of digital texts for your full schedule of classes and will be available for purchase after 7/18/16. For further instructions please visit the [16-17](#)

[School Year](#) icon on the MVCS homepage. Please note: some courses may require additional purchases outside of the course materials fee.

Supplemental Study Workbook:

Cracking the AP US History Exam, (newest edition). Farmington, MA: Princeton Review.

Course Outline:

1st Quarter

- Introduction to the course—course expectations and requirements.
- Summer reading assignments
- *The American Pageant*, chapters 1-15. This covers the history of what becomes the United States of America from discovery through the early national period (c.1840).
- Assigned outside reading.
- Completed handwritten notes from text chapters.
- 20 question multiple choice quizzes on each chapter.
- DBQ and free response essays requiring students to use both the text and other information from lecture and documents.
- Beginning essay writing skills: in-class, group, and individual DBQs. Assigned outside reading forms.

2nd Quarter

- Chapters 16-27. Roughly, the history of America 1790 to 1900.
- In-class and assigned documents, maps, cartoons, and articles.
- Assigned outside reading.
- Chapter notes.
- Assessment (see first quarter)
- Group project on the early republic.
- Presidential memorization test.

3rd Quarter

- Chapters 28-35. The 20th Century to about 1945.
- In-class and assigned documents, maps, cartoons, and articles.
- Assigned outside reading.
- Chapter notes.
- Assessment (see first quarter).
- Group project on landmark Supreme Court cases.

4th Quarter

- Chapters 36-42. WWII to the war on terror.
- Assigned outside reading.
- Chapter notes.
- Assessment (see first quarter).

- AP test.
- Final.

Exam Prep

The AP exam is scheduled for Friday, May 5th. Students who plan on taking the exam will need to do extensive review outside of class to prepare for the test. The instructor will be available for study sessions after school and during advisory for two weeks prior to the exam. Dates for review sessions will be announced at the beginning of 4th quarter.

Grading:

The course will be graded on a point system utilizing the following major components:

<u>Grade Book Categories</u>		<u>Semester Weighted Grading Configuration</u>	
Tests and Projects	40%	Quarter	40%
Quizzes	30%	Quarter	40%
Homework and participation	30%	Final Project	20%

Explanation of Gradebook Categories:

Summer Reading Assignment - See course listings on the school website

Chapter Reading Guides

This is a names and dates, facts and figures history class. You must carefully read, understand, and remember each chapter of the textbook.

- Effective students take thorough notes on the text reading. Students will be completing a reading guide of each chapter for homework credit.
- During the 1st semester, reading guides may be used in writing in-class essays if properly done.

Multiple Choice Quizzes and Tests

- Twenty question multiple choice quizzes will be given after every chapter.

In-Class Essays

- You will be taught how to write effective AP essays and you will have document-based, in-class assignments that will build these skills.
- It is your responsibility to produce a legible essay. Essays that are illegible will not be graded.
- All essays will be done in class and will be timed as they are on the AP test: 45 minutes for DBQs and 35 minutes each for free response essays.
- Document-based questions (DBQs) and free response essays are worth 100 points each.
- If you miss a day on which essays are given, you must make them up the next school day or the essay(s) will be marked late and penalized 50%.

- Essays that are more than one calendar week late will not be accepted.

Missed unit tests

- Be prepared to take the unit tests on the scheduled days.
- If you know that you are going to miss class for a school activity or for other legitimate reasons, you should take the test in advance.
- If you are absent from school to avoid taking scheduled tests, your work will be marked late and penalized 50%.
- If you miss any section of a unit test, you should make up the missed work the day you return to school.
- Multiple choice tests, essays, or chapter notes that are more than one calendar week late will not be accepted.

Presidents Quiz

- You are required to memorize the names and dates of administration of all of the presidents of the United States. You will demonstrate that knowledge by writing on a blank sheet of paper the first and last name and dates of service of all of the Presidents in order.
- Students completing the test during the first quarter will receive 25 extra credit points. All students must complete the test before the end of 2nd quarter.

Group Projects

- Students will do several group projects including making a movie on landmark Supreme Court cases and a presentation on foreign policy in the early republic.

High School Standard Grading Policy:

Please refer to the policy and procedures posted online in our Student Handbook.

Class Policies:

Classroom expectations are provided to create a respectful and viable learning environment.

1. Everyone is to be on time with materials ready (seated, notebook and iPad on desk with writing utensil) to learn before the tardy bell rings.
2. When the teacher or a peer is speaking all others will be quiet and respectful. That means no pencil tapping, desk drumming, or whispering.
3. Attendance: It is vital that you have good attendance as much of the material will come from lecture and not from the textbook. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the notes and homework missed.
4. The teacher, not the bell, dismisses the class. It is rude to begin packing your bag when someone is addressing the class.
5. We have a lot of material to cover in short class periods therefore we need to limit interruptions. Bathroom breaks must be taken during passing period, break and lunch.

6. If a homework assignment is one day late, it will be given half credit. After that, it will receive no credit. On major projects, you will lose 10% for each day it is late. It will not be accepted if it is over five days late. It is the student's responsibility to obtain and complete missed assignments. Extra credit assignments will only be available to students who have turned in all assignments.
7. Cheating is a serious offense. Students will not receive credit on work where cheating occurred. Every offense is reported to administration and the second offense goes on your permanent record.
8. You will be required to do all hand written notes and assignments in cursive.

School Policies:

Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as printed in the Student Handbook. It is the Student's responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of the school.

Tips for Students:

Extra Work

Teacher may assign extra credit options but these are only available if you have completed and submitted all assigned work in the quarter.

Miscellaneous:

Materials Needed:

1. A charged iPad – ready for use
2. Stylus for use with iPad
3. Three ring binder with lined paper, for this class only.
4. Blue or black ink pen
5. Red pen