

# 2024–25 AP U.S. History Syllabus

## **Course Description**

Advanced Placement United States history (APUSH) is a college-level course taught in high school. As such it presents students with several distinct advantages as well as some unique challenges when compared to typical high school honors courses. One advantage of APUSH is that students can receive college credit if they earn a qualifying score on their AP Exam. This can save time and money in college allowing students to take a lighter load or even graduate earlier. Enrollment in AP classes can also give students an edge in admissions when applying to college. Most importantly, by exposing students to college-level rigor in a high school setting, AP prepares students for greater success in college.

However, that same level of rigor makes AP courses significantly harder than honors courses and even many first-year courses in college. The main reason why AP classes are so challenging is that the AP exam must be rigorous enough to convince colleges that students who pass an AP Exam deserve college credit even though they are still in high school. AP classes are also difficult because students are younger than they will be in college. Additionally, less time is available for study and review as AP Exams are taken before the end of a school year.

Therefore, students who are bright, motivated, and disciplined do best in the course and on the exam. The good news is that most of my students every year usually earn an A or B in the class and ultimately pass the AP U.S. History Exam. However, nothing is guaranteed, and consistent effort is essential for success.

## **The AP US History Exam**

The AP U.S. History exam will be administered Friday May 9, 2025. The exam is 3 hours and 15 minutes long and has four components: 55 stimulus-based multiple-choice questions (40%), 3 short answer questions (20%), 1 document-based essay question (25%), and 1 long essay question (15%). The exam is graded on a five-point scale. Generally, most public universities award credit or placement to students who earn a 3 or higher while some private colleges require a score of 4 or higher. See the College Board's [AP credit policy page](#) for more details.

All students enrolled in the class are expected to take the AP U.S. History exam. In 2024 the exam fee was \$98 (less if a student is eligible for financial aid). Exams ordered or canceled after mid-November incur a \$40 fee. AP Exam scores will be sent to students in July.

## **Course Objectives (Students will...)**

- examine key historical developments and events
- critically interpret primary and secondary sources
- write essays that support an argument with evidence
- learn and use historical reasoning skills
- be prepared to successfully take the AP US History Exam
- gain skills and knowledge needed to participate in our democracy

See the College Board's [AP US History web page](#) for more details about the course and exam.

### **Grade Percentages**

A	89.5%–100.0%
B	79.5%–89.4%
C	69.5%–79.4%
D	59.5%–69.4%
F	0%–59.4%

### **Grade Category Weights**

60%	Assessments (tests, essays, projects)
20%	Practice (exam practice activities)
20%	Assignments (work, vids, notebook)

AP course grades earn an extra grade point

### **Absent Work, Late Work, Renaissance Cards, and Extra Credit**

Absent students may make up any work or exams missed, but a makeup test or essay may be different. Late work will usually be accepted for full credit if it is turned in before the end of the unit and if it is only an occasional occurrence and not a regular pattern. However, work assigned while a substitute teacher was present will NOT be accepted late, except in the case of an absence. Renaissance Cards are not accepted. Extra credit is rarely assigned and if offered, will be available to all students equally. Students should not expect much extra credit in this class.

### **Cheating**

Cheating is any attempt to take credit for work that is not one's own. Cheating usually is done by copying or using tools or methods that are not allowed. Examples include but are not limited to borrowing or copying someone's work, plagiarizing, copying from or using a website without disclosure or permission, submitting AI-created or AI-assisted work without permission or disclosure, accessing test or essay questions or answers ahead of time, etc. Any student found to have cheated will be given a zero on the assignment or assessment and will be subject to the penalties for academic dishonesty in Section VII of the Ayala [Student Handbook](#) which may include removal for the class with a "withdrawn/failure" grade and even expulsion from the school in certain circumstances.

### **Electronic Device Usage**

Students are expected to bring their charged, district-issued Chromebooks to class each day. Cell phones, earbuds/headphones, cameras, tablets, laptops, and other electronic devices should not be out or used during class without prior permission. Consequences for using unauthorized electronic devices as outlined in Section III of the Ayala [Student Handbook](#) will be enforced.

### **Contacting the Teacher**

I can be reached via email, Aeries Parent Square, or directly on Google Classroom. I will try to reply to all inquiries within 48 business hours. My email is [matthew\\_ellington@chino.k12.ca.us](mailto:matthew_ellington@chino.k12.ca.us)

I have read, understand, and will abide by the provisions of the 2024–2025 AP U.S. History syllabus. (Please return the whole sheet with handwritten signatures in ink.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(student name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(period)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(student signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(parent signature)