

# AP United States History Syllabus



MS. JUSTICE | BREMERTON HIGH SCHOOL | 2015-2016

## Course Description



College Board: "The AP US History course focuses on developing students' understanding of American history from approximately 1491 to the present. The course has students investigate the content of US history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods employed by historians when they study the past. The course also provides seven themes...that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places."

As is the case with all **college-level** AP courses, AP US History is a **rigorous, fast-paced** course. As a result, you will be required to complete reading, writing, and other assignments outside of class, as well as take notes in class on lectures and discussions. *Failure to complete independent assignments and poor note-taking will have a negative impact on your ability to be successful in the course.* This AP course is demanding and you can expect exams in traditional AP format, in-class essays, individual and group work, and presentations. You are required to maintain a section in your 3-ring binder for notes, assignments, and returned exams. These will serve as invaluable review resources in the weeks leading up to the national AP US History Exam!

AP US History is a year-long course. A passing grade each semester will satisfy Bremerton High School's US History graduation requirement.

## The AP Exam

Speaking of the exam - the national AP US History Exam is on **Friday, May 6, 2016**. Every student enrolled in AP US History at BHS is expected to take the exam. The exam is three hours, 15 minutes long and consists of a multiple choice/short-answer section and a free-response section. There is a fee of approximately \$90 to take the exam (financial assistance is available for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch). Students who pass the exam can earn college credit. Exam registration and due dates for the fees will be announced in the spring.

## Course Objectives

- Investigate and develop an understanding of the key concepts, people, groups, and events in the College Board's AP US History Concept Outline.
- Develop and apply historical thinking skills to the study of US History.
- Develop knowledge of historical content through application of thematic learning objectives.
- Explore and interpret a variety of primary sources and secondary texts related to US History.
- Prepare to pass the national AP US History Exam.

## Contact Information:

Angela Justice  
Room 331  
360-473-0872

### E-MAIL:

[angela.justice@bremertonschools.org](mailto:angela.justice@bremertonschools.org)

### CLASS WEBSITE:

[www.bremertonschools.org/Page/5960](http://www.bremertonschools.org/Page/5960)

### COMMUNICATION: (TEXT, EMAIL & APP)

[www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com)

text group code @apusbhs to 81010  
send an email to [apusbhs@mail.remind.com](mailto:apusbhs@mail.remind.com)  
or download the free app

## Class Supplies:

### Required:

- ⇒ Designated section in a 3-ring binder
  - ⇒ Writing utensil(s)
  - ⇒ Notebook paper
- ⇒ AP US History textbook & supplemental resources

### Optional:

- ⇒ Post-it notes (for text notation)
- ⇒ Highlighter(s)

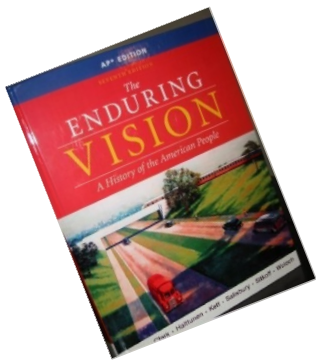
**Note:** All students at BHS are required to maintain a 3-ring binder for all academic coursework. This binder, as well as tabbed dividers, will be provided once a year by the school. Regular, scheduled binder checks will take place in all classes. Ms. Justice will provide a list of items that should be in the AP US History section of the binder in advance of each binder check. These binder checks are formative assessments in AP US History, but will impact your overall grade in Knight Skills.

## Course Content

AP US History course content reflects the content of college and university introductory US History courses. The AP US History content is divided into nine units by time period. Instructional importance and assessment weighting as recommended by College Board is as follows:

AP US History Unit		Instructional Time	% of AP Exam	Unit Test Date (subject to change)
Unit 1	1491-1607	5%	5%	September 11, 2015
Unit 2	1607-1754	10%	45%	October 2, 2015
Unit 3	1454-1800	12%		October 23, 2015
Unit 4	1800-1848	10%		November 20, 2015
Unit 5	1844-1877	13%		December 18, 2015
Unit 6	1865-1898	13%	45%	January 29, 2016
Unit 7	1890-1945	17%		February 26, 2016
Unit 8	1945-1980	15%		March 30, 2016
Unit 9	1980-present	5%	5%	April 22, 2016

## Class Resources



### Textbook:

Boyer, P. S. (2011). *The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People* (7th ed.). Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

(ISBN # 978-0-495-80239-6 )

You will each check out a copy of the course text through the BHS Library.

If the book is lost or severely damaged the approximate replacement cost is **\$150**.

These textbooks are **RELATIVELY NEW** (purchased just 2 years ago!), so please treat them as you would a newborn child – gently and with great care! A **book cover** is an awesome idea. DO NOT write in these textbooks! If you are interested in writing/highlighting in your textbook you may use post-it notes or purchase a book of your own (see Ms. Justice for details on how to do that).



**Supplementary Reading Assignments:** Periodically you will be given primary sources and secondary texts as supplementary reading assignments. It is expected that you read these in their entirety by the assigned date (as you would the textbook) and place them in your binder for future reference.

### Textbook Companion Website:

<http://goo.gl/JjcxrV>

### Class Website:

<http://www.bremertonschools.org/Page/5960>

*Videos, links, handouts, and relevant course documents will be posted on this site.*

## Assignments and Grading

In AP US History you will complete a variety of assignments that will help you learn the content and prepare for unit tests, essays, and summative assignments. These assignments will include: textbook reading assignments, supplementary reading assignments, in-class notes, graphic organizers, class discussions, group activities, and other individual and group in-class activities. You should expect to have **1 hour of homework** for each hour spent in class. If there is no assigned homework, you should review your notes and study for any upcoming essays or tests, etc.

**All grades in AP US History will be entered into Skyward Family Access (EA+).**

Student grades can be accessed at any time through Skyward Family Access (EA+) online. If you have any questions about grades, please contact Ms. Justice.



Student log-in information can be obtained in the BHS Library. Parent sign-up for Skyward Family Access (EA+) can be facilitated through the Bremerton High School office (360-473-0800).

AP US History adheres to the Bremerton School District Standards-Based Grading and Reporting Policy. All grades will be determined based on evidence from assessments that measure achievement on course, state, and national standards.

**Grades will be calculated based on the following percentages:**

### Unit Tests [40 %]

At the end of each unit there will be an exam that includes AP-style stimulus-based multiple choice questions and AP-style short-answer questions. Test scores can be improved with test corrections (due 1 week after receiving the corrected exam). *Test re-takes are available within 6 days of receiving the graded test, only after having a conference with Ms. Justice and completing corrections (following the assigned format).*

### Essays [30%]

Throughout the course numerous essays will be written in response to both Document-Based Questions and Long-Essay Questions. Some essays may be written as homework, while others will be written during class in a timed-write environment. *Essay re-writes may be submitted within 5 days of receiving the graded essay and only after having a conference with Ms. Justice.*

### Summative Assignments, Classwork & Homework [20%]

Assignments given in class, or as homework, that assess learning of historical concepts and ideas could include graphic organizers, group activities, worksheets, practice free-response questions, study guides, etc.

### Skills for Success [10%]

Skills necessary for success in high school and beyond, such as arriving on time with required supplies, being self-directed, using class time appropriately, giving your best effort, etc.

**\*\*In accordance with district policy, NO extra credit will be given.\*\***

## Bremerton High School Grading Scale

Standards-Based Grading Description	Letter Grade	Percentage Value
Exceeds Standards	A	93-100
	A-	90-92
Meets Standards	B+	87-89
	B	83-86
	B-	80-82
Approaching Standards	C+	77-79
	C	73-76
	C-	70-72
	D+	67-69
Does Not Meet Standards	D	60-66
	F	Below 60
Incomplete	F	N/A

## Academic Dishonesty

Any assignment on which a student cheated or plagiarized will not receive a score. The student will be subject to the disciplinary consequences detailed in the BHS Student Handbook and will be provided with an alternate opportunity to demonstrate understanding on the assignment. The alternate assignment must be completed within the time frame specified by the teacher.

## Absences

### Attendance:

Attendance is **crucial** to your success in this class. A majority of this class is based on lecture, discussion, and in-class activities. All assignments will be posted daily on the class website. If you do not have internet access at home, use the computers in the BHS Library, check with a classmate, or ask Ms. Justice to see what you missed. *It is **your responsibility** to find out what you need to make up after an absence!*

### Tests & In-Class Essays:

It is the **student's responsibility** to reschedule any unit test or essay missed due to absence. Given the rigorous pacing of the course,

**Unit Tests & In-Class Essays must be made up within 3 school days.**

Make-up times must be arranged **in advance** with Ms. Justice. Due to the amount of material that must be covered during class, tests and in-class essays must be made up outside of class time.

### Prearranged absences (such as sports, choir, band, ASB activities, etc.):

Students must ask for their work *before* leaving for a prearranged absence. The assignment(s) will be due at the same time as everyone else unless otherwise agreed upon with the teacher.

## Course Expectations and Guidelines

***AP US History is a rigorous academic class and it is, therefore, expected that an academic environment will be maintained from bell to bell. Your contribution to an academic environment will be to:***

- Be present in class every day, and arrive on time. Arriving after the bell will result in a tardy.
- Follow the "Knight Way" and act with Respect, Responsibility, and Safety toward peers and adults at all times.
- Bring all materials, as required, and be prepared for class with all homework and assignments.
- Work to your best potential every day, ask questions, and actively participate in class activities and discussions.
- Practice academic honesty, which includes both honestly answering questions in class and on assignments, and only signing one's own name to one's own work. Students found copying, cheating, or plagiarizing will be subject to the consequences detailed in the BHS Student Handbook.
- Follow all policies and procedures in the BHS Student Handbook including the Electronics Policy, which states:

**"Electronics may NOT be used in classroom/lab areas during scheduled instructional time unless teacher directed [as a] planned part of lesson or learning activity.... It is recommended that students leave all of their electronic devices at home."**

Any non-educational, **non-teacher-directed** use of electronics will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Bremerton High School discipline code. This means that the electronic device may be confiscated by the teacher and sent to the school office and/or a discipline referral may be written.

***Remember, AP students are serious students, and serious students are not on their phones during class :-)***

**Student Syllabus Acknowledgement Statement:**

- I acknowledge that I have read and understand the contents of the AP US History Syllabus.
- I understand that AP US History is a rigorous, college-level course and I will be expected to challenge myself academically and complete many assignments, as well as homework and studying on my own time outside of class.
- I understand that I am expected to follow all BHS policies while in AP US History class, including the attendance, tardy, academic honesty, and electronics policies.
- I understand that I am expected to come to class each day with the required supplies, materials, and resources.
- I understand that the majority of my grade in AP US History will be made up of test and essay scores, in order to be prepared for the national AP Exam in May 2016.
- I understand that I have the ability to improve my scores on tests by completing corrections, and on essays by submitting re-writes. I can re-take tests and re-submit essays only after completing corrections and/or having a conference with Ms. Justice.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain missed assignments and schedule essay and test make-ups due to absences, both excused and unexcused.
- I understand that I can (and should) access my grade in AP US History through the Skyward Family Access (EA +) website, and that Ms. Justice's BHS AP US History website can be used as a supplementary resource for the class.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Syllabus Acknowledgement Statement:**

- I acknowledge that I have read and understand the contents of the AP US History Syllabus.
- I understand that AP US History is a rigorous, college-level course and my student will be expected to challenge him/herself academically and complete many assignments, as well as homework and studying, on his/her own time outside of class.
- I understand that my student is expected to follow all BHS policies while in AP US History class, including the attendance, tardy, academic honesty, and electronics policies.
- I understand that my student is expected to come to class each day with the required supplies, materials, and resources.
- I understand that the majority of my student's grade in AP US History will be made up of test and essay scores, in order to be prepared for the national AP Exam in May 2016.
- I understand that my student has the ability to improve scores on tests by completing corrections, and on essays by submitting re-writes. He/she can re-take tests and re-write essays only after completing corrections and/or having a conference with Ms. Justice.
- I understand that it is my student's responsibility to obtain missed assignments and schedule essay and test make-ups due to absences, both excused and unexcused.
- I understand that my student and I can access grades in AP US History through the Skyward Family Access (EA+) website, and that Ms. Justice's BHS AP US History website can be used as a supplementary resource for the class.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date** \_\_\_\_\_