

**Pre-AP United States History
Abbott Lawrence Academy
2019-2020**

PRE-AP U.S. HISTORY SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

Teacher: Caryn Howell

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2:45-4:00

Classroom: A205

Edmodo Code: qzw5ap

Note: Feel free to text (339) 545-1345 for questions about specific assignments or the course.

Course Description:

This chronological survey course focuses on significant political, social, and economic developments in the nation's history. Students will concentrate on the growth of our diverse population, the evolution of the U.S. political system and economy, cultural change, and interactions with the rest of the world. This is a reading and writing intensive course that draws on students' ability to analyze primary and secondary sources to craft analytical essays as well as position and research papers. Skills refined and built in this class will prepare you for higher level history and humanities courses, including Merrimack Government & Politics.

Materials:

Class Materials:

- Pens: blue, black & red ink
- Pencils
- White, college-ruled filler paper (4 packs)

Textbook: *America's History*, 8th Edition by J. Henretta, E. Hinderaker, R. Edwards and R. Self
Supplementary Texts: Unit course packs which include primary and secondary sources such as historical documents and essays by historians

Means of Evaluation: The list below generally describes the assignments that each student will be expected to complete during the course. Guidelines for each assignment will be distributed individually.

Assessments (Tests, quizzes, essays, projects) (50%)

Notebooks/Classwork (Binders, class activities) (30%)
Homework (Notes, AP practice) (20%)
Marking Period (100%)

GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent
A+	97 - 100%
A	94 - 96%
A-	90 - 93%
B+	87 - 89%
B	84 - 86%
B-	80 - 83%
C+	77 - 79%
C	74 - 76%
C-	70 - 73%
D+	67 - 69%
D	65 - 66%
F	0 - 64%

- An “A” grade represents outstanding work that is good enough to be shown to other students as an example.
- A “B” grade indicates better than average work that demonstrates excellent effort and understanding.
- A “C” grade is assigned to work that demonstrates competence but does not display any

attempt to shine.

- A “D” grade indicates work that is lacking in some important way.
- An “F” is a failing grade. It will be given if an assignment or exam is not submitted or is extremely poorly executed, or in the case of plagiarism or other failure to adhere to norms of academic honesty.

Class Procedures:

Upon entering Room A205, it is the responsibility of the student to:

1. Be seated and ready to begin work when the bell rings. Ms. Howell will pass out any papers that you need.
2. When you take your seat, please take out your homework and place it at the top of your desk.
3. At the start of class, please immerse yourself in the Do Now and work silently. It will always be clear what you should be doing when class starts.
4. Please tuck your backpacks and other materials you will not need underneath your desk.

The goal is for our class to run like a college seminar on history. That means that you may get out of your seat if you have a reason to do so during independent or group work. Procedures and expectations are generally simple: be ready to work hard, be respectful and make good decisions, and keep our class safe and clean.

If you miss class, any printed work will be available in the labeled folders at the back of the room. Please pick this work up at the beginning of class when you return. It is your responsibility to follow up with the teacher or a classmate about what you missed.

A205 Classroom Expectations:

1. Engage with the material, ask questions, and give your best effort during all parts of class.
2. Keep our shared space clean and collegiate at all times.
3. Respect each other and treat each other with kindness and compassion.

LATE POLICY: Please see below for detailed late policies about missing work in US History.

CATEGORY	TIME LIMIT & PENALTY
Homework	Homework will be accepted up to 3 class periods after it is due. For example, if a set of notes is due on Tuesday A Day, the last day it will be accepted is Wednesday A Day. As soon as notes or HW is late, the grade will drop to a 50%.
Classwork	If you are absent, check with Ms. Howell regarding whether or not you should turn in the missed classwork. You should review all missed work, but not every classwork will be collected. Classwork should be turned in no more than 2 periods after you return from an absence.
Major Writing Assignments	Writing assignments that are given as in-class graded assignments have the same late policy as tests and quizzes.
Tests & Quizzes	If you are absent the day a test or quiz is given, please make arrangements to make it up outside of class time within 4 school days .
Projects	Late projects will be accepted up to 5 days after they are due. Each day a project is late, 10% will be deducted from the final grade.

Extensions: Because we have a great amount of information to cover and skills to build this year, extensions on assignments will not be granted, except in extenuating circumstances. If you know of a reason that you will need additional time on an assignment, or if something comes up and you need one, please come talk to Ms. Howell.

Absences/Tardies

It is the expectation of the Lawrence Public Schools that all students are to attend all classes. While the district strives for 95% attendance, there are consequences for students whose attendance in their courses falls to 90% or less - including credit loss and/or retention. To earn credit in any course, a student is obligated to:

1. Fulfill the course requirements as defined by the content and performance standards for the course;
2. Maintain above a 90% attendance rate in all courses, no more than eight (8) absences per semester and no more than sixteen (16) absences for the year.

While credit is only earned at the end of a semester or year-long course, to earn a grade for the quarter, no more than four (4) absences are permitted.

If a student accumulates more than four (4) absences per quarter in any course, s/he will receive a grade of “N” on the report card, indicating that s/he is “Not on Track for Credit” due to poor

attendance. If a student receives an “N” for one quarter, s/he can still receive a passing grade for the semester or year if the student maintains a passing grade average and is not absent more than four (4) times in the remaining quarters. It is important to remember that “N” represents a notice to both students and parents that they need to monitor their school attendance more closely and set a goal to improve attendance. One “N” does not represent that a student is failing the course from a lack of achievement. (If a student is failing the course for lack of achievement, the report card would reflect the failing grade, not an “N.”) If a student receives one or more “N” grades, they will also be ineligible for Honor Roll.

Students may also convert an “N” acquired for a course to a letter grade by pursuing credit recovery options available at his/her school or programs. Options may include enrollment in extended day classes, Saturday programs, Acceleration Academies, or online course work as appropriate/available. These options should be discussed directly with the student’s classroom educator.

If a student earns two “N’s” in a semester course, s/he will receive No Credit for the course and likewise, if the student receives four “N’s” in a full year course, s/he will receive No Credit for the course. The absences would meet the threshold for chronic absenteeism and the student should set up a meeting with his or her guidance counselor to make arrangements to repeat the course or its equivalent in summer programs or future terms. For students who have otherwise achieved or exceeded the course standards, an alternative opportunity may be created.

Students who are consistently late to classes will receive disciplinary action. Consequences are as follows:

- One** detention after a student’s **3rd** unexcused tardy in a class.
 - Two** detentions after a student’s **6th** unexcused tardy in a class (parent phone call).
 - Three** detentions after a student’s **9th** unexcused tardy in a class (parent meeting).
 - A Week** of detention after a student’s **12th** unexcused tardy in a class.
 - Students will be referred to **in-school suspension** after their **15th** tardy.
- Disciplinary action after the 18th tardy will be at the discretion of the principal and may include an attendance hearing at Central Office and/or disqualification from taking Early College courses.

Make-up Work

If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to get assignments from their teachers. Students who are absent on a due date need to turn in their work the following day that the class meets at the start of class. If students are absent when major assignments are due, they must turn in their work the next calendar day.

Late Work

Written assignments are due at the beginning of each period. Late work will incur penalties. Teachers determine the point deductions for each assignment.

Snow Days

Students are encouraged to check the Lawrence Public Schools webpage, the Superintendent’s Twitter account, and their local news station for information about Snow Days. If a Snow Day is observed on a “A-Day” schedule, upon returning to school students will follow a “B-day” schedule. In the event that a due date for a major assignment falls on a snow day, students must still turn in the assignment only if it required electronic submission.

Students must let Ms. Howell know about extended absences (family trips, hospital stays, etc.) at least two weeks before the planned absence in order to provide time for alternative assignments.

Uniform

Students are to be in uniform at all times. The uniform consists of an ALA black or maroon polo, khakis, and closed-toed shoes. Other acceptable garments include crew neck sweaters, fleeces, cardigans, or ALA track jackets in black, maroon, navy, or white. These garments must be solid colored and should not have any designs or stripes. Polo shirts must always be worn underneath these garments. Hooded sweatshirts and denim are not allowed in any way. Student cannot wear these garments through their arms. Students may wear LHS or ALA gear so long as they have a visible ALA polo underneath. Students who have any concerns regarding uniforms should reach out to any ALA teachers or administrators who will help resolve any issues discreetly.

Students who do not adhere to our uniform guidelines will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- -**One** after-school detention after a student’s **3rd** offense.
- -**Two** after-school detentions after a student’s **6th** offense (parent phone call).
- -**Three** after-school detentions after a student’s **9th** offense (parent meeting).
- -A **Week** of after school detention after a student’s **12th** offense.
- -Students will be referred to **in-school suspension** after their **15th** offense. Disciplinary action after the **18th** offense will be at the discretion of the principal and may include a hearing at Central Office and/or disqualification from extracurricular activities, school events, and taking Early College courses.
- Teachers have the authority to confiscate items of clothing that are not in adherence with the dress code. Items will be returned to students at the end of the day.

**We acknowledge that situations may arise throughout the year where a student may not have access to a uniform. We ask that students have a parent inform us when such situations arise. A parent can notify the school by phone, email, or note before 8:00am on that day.*

Hall Passes

Students should obtain a Hall Pass from a teacher to use the restroom or travel within ALA. Students are also required to sign-in/out when leaving and re-entering a classroom. A separate written pass is required to go to the nurse. Students cannot leave any given class during the first or final 10 minutes of class.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The use of technology in classrooms and throughout ALA should be viewed as a privileged resource and not a right. Each teacher will determine when technology may be used in the classroom. Any inappropriate use of laptops or phones (such as texting, internet browsing, Facebook/ Twitter, etc) will negatively impact student grades and result in further disciplinary action. Teachers reserve the right to confiscate laptops/phones until the end of the period. If further issues arise, administration will confiscate devices for the rest of the day and notify parents.

School Computers

ALA has several computer carts equipped with Chromebooks and full-service Laptops. Many of the carts are only for classroom use and some are reserved for individual student sign-out.

- *Classroom Carts* – computers in these carts are not to be taken out for student’s individual use. The only exception to this rule is during a Study Hall period.
- *Individual Student Sign-Out* – computers will be made available for sign-out from 7:15-8:00am and from 2:45-4:00pm. Student must fill out the sign-out book and return the computers before the morning or afternoon time period is over.
- *Overnight Reservations* – students who require a computer to take home to complete assignments can do so. Please be aware that computers are limited and we will try to fulfill every request as best we can. All request for computers should be made with a guidance counselor.

Google Account

ALA students are given a Google account that is tied to their LPS ID Lunch number. We strongly encourage students to use this account given that many assignments are done through many of the Google Suites applications. Here is how to log-in to Google:

- Username – 12345@students.lawrence.k12.ma.us
- Password – 00012345
- Replace “12345” with students’ unique LPS ID number.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students are expected to maintain the highest level of academic integrity. When using ideas, words, and short passages from other people's writing, students are required to acknowledge the source. Failure to acknowledge the contribution of others is considered plagiarism. Submitting plagiarized work, failing to properly cite or fabricating sources, and any other academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the given assignment and further disciplinary action. Students will not be allowed to make up any plagiarized work for credit. Plagiarism includes copying directly from the Internet, a book or article, or another student’s work (with or without their permission). In order to avoid these issues, students are encouraged to speak with any teacher or administrator if they have any questions (no matter how small) about their work or citing sources.

Students who are found to be academically dishonest will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- 1st offense – Week of after-school detention.

- 2nd offense – In-school suspension.
- 3rd offense – Out of school suspension.
- 4th offense – Disciplinary Hearing at District Office (action to be recommended by hearing officer). At this point students may be disqualified from participating in Early College courses in their Junior or Senior year and/or placed on Academic Probation.

*All offenses come with a grade of a “0” for the assignment in which the student was academically dishonest.

DETENTION PROTOCOL

An ALA staff member will inform students if they have received an after-school detention. Detentions are usually served for infractions related to tardiness, uniform, and incidents related to behavior. Detentions will occur from 2:50-3:20pm daily and the location will rotate on a weekly basis. Students must be at the designated location by 2:50pm or they will not be allowed to serve their detention. As a consequence, students will have to make up the detention they missed in addition to another day for arriving late.

Electronics Policy:

- Cell phones should be put away and silenced during class time.
- If Ms. Howell sees or hears a phone, it will be relocated to her desk for the rest of the period.
 - The first time, it will be a warning to put the phone away. If this is a recurring problem, further action will be taken.
- When we use laptops for class assignments, please do not open extraneous tabs.
- You may plug in headphones and listen to music while typing or reading on a laptop if it helps you focus.

Final Takeaway

Welcome to 10th grade U.S. History! I am immensely looking forward to the work that we will do together this year. Pre-AP U.S. History is an opportunity for you to prove that you can excel in a college-level course, and a chance to develop the critical thinking skills needed to understand how history has shaped us, and how we can shape it. I will leave you with the words of Maya Angelou:

“History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.”

