

Riverside University High School
Advanced Placement United States History
2008-2009

Instructor: Mr. Fons

Email: fonscy@yahoo.com

Blog: fonsclass.blogspot.com

Where: 309

When: Hours 2, 3/4 and 9

Course Description:

This course is designed for students who wish to take a college level course in United States History while still in high school. The course covers the history of the United States from its pre-colonial and colonial past to the present with five different themes (Immigration, International Relations, Technology, Leadership and A Democratic Republic). Students are expected to analyze and synthesize a variety of primary and secondary sources in political, economic, religious, cultural and social history. Students should be able to present their ideas orally and write at a high level to be successful in this course. Students are also expected to demonstrate their competence on a three-hour examination administered by the College Board.

National History Day:

Working individually or collaboratively in small groups, students produce historical documentaries, exhibits, dramatic performances or research papers based on an [annual theme](#). Students in 6th through 12th grade may choose to participate in the national event cycle by presenting their research at a competitive series of local, regional, state and national events.

Literature:

For each of the five themes of the course students will be required to read a novel (approved by the teacher) that is related to the subject matter and report on the novel in a variety of forms.

Required text:

Bailey Thomas A., Cohen, Elizabeth and Kennedy, David M. *The American Pageant*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Addison Company, 1998.

Sparknotes 101: U.S. History, 1865 through the 20th Century. New York: Spark Publishing, 2005.

A three ring binder is required for each section of the course. At the end of each unit you will receive a grade for the progress of your notebook.

Expectations:

Because of the nature of this course and because you have been recommended for this course a higher level of independent study and maturity is expected of you. Because you can obtain college-credit for this course the standards and expectations are naturally higher. At the university level students need to be self disciplined and must work independently if they want to succeed.

Grading:

Class Participation	33%	100-90	A
Weekly Assignments	33%	89-80	B
Tests	33%	79-70	C
		69-60	D
		59-0	U

All tests, exams, outside reading, homework, and assignments will have specific deadlines that will only be extended with an excused absence (see your student handbook for definitions). Students who are absent more than 6 days in a marking period should expect no grade higher than a C.

Woody Allen once said, “99% of life is showing up,” I disagree. In your studies and in life you must actively motivate and challenge yourself and others to think critically, to have high expectations, to read more, to not just do the minimum because there are many people far more privileged than yourself that will be able to get the job or get ahead of you because the system in which we live is not always just.