

# AP US History

Maxwell Suitt

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Welcome to my class! My name is Maxwell Suitt and I will be your child's AP US History teacher for the Fall Semester of 2023 at Destrehan High School. In selecting this class, you have taken an important step in ensuring that your child will develop those skills necessary to succeed in the not so distant college environment.

## **Course Information**

In AP U.S. History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change. The course also provides eight themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures. The AP United States History Course corresponds to two semesters of a typical introductory college history course. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking skills, essay writing, interpretation of original documents and historiography.

## **Necessary Supplies:**

- 3-ring binder one large 3" and one small 1"-2"
- Lined loose leaf paper
- Pens blue or black ink
- highlighters
- Post It Notes
- Colored Pencils
- Chromebook
- Textbook

## **Classroom Guidelines:**

- Always give your best effort on all class activities and assignments. They are opportunities to learn, achieve and grow. Take advantage of them.
- Academic Freedom: All students have a right to their opinions, (however unpopular). How you support your opinions is a key to doing well on the AP exam and in this class. Respect for the opinion of others as well as their property is a class requirement.
- Remember that your personal honor and integrity are a very precious and important part of who you are as a person. Therefore, I expect that you will do all of your OWN work at all times (see the DHS Student Handbook for further information regarding cheating/plagiarism).
- Do not be late. Be seated at your desk when the bell rings.
- Take responsibility for your work.
- Students are at all times to adhere to St. Charles Parish Public Schools rules and policy as listed in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook 2023-2024.
- LEARN AS MUCH AS YOU CAN!

### **Cell Phone Policy**

Cell phones and other communicative devices will be picked up at the beginning of class and returned at the end of class every day. Students will not be allowed to access this technology during class time. In the event of an emergency students will be allowed to call home from the front office. Failure to comply with the above will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook 2023-2024.

### **Parent Contact:**

There are many ways you may choose to contact me throughout the semester:

1. **School Status:** I will be reaching out to you through this app more than any other. With it I can quickly send texts or make a phone call concerning your child. You also may use this app to make communication between us much more streamlined, easy and effective.
2. **Email:** My email is, as noted above: [msuitt@stcharles.k12.la.us](mailto:msuitt@stcharles.k12.la.us)
3. **Phone Destrehan High School:** You may also choose to reach me by telephone by calling the Destrehan High School Office at 764-9946 or 764-9947.
4. **Parent Conferences:** I am available for conferences, telephone or otherwise, during the Third Period (10:40 am - 12:30 pm) everyday.

### **Grading:**

Powerschool is an important tool in following your child's progress throughout the semester. If you do not have a login for this app, please contact the Destrehan High School Office immediately. DHS follows a 60% summative with 40% formative grading policy. This means summative grades (tests, DBQ Essays, Research Papers, etc.) count for 60% of a student's overall average while daily formative grades (Socratic seminars, homework, quizzes, etc.) count for 40% of a student's overall average. The students overall semester grade will be an average of all four quarters including the LEAP Exam.

### **Homework:**

AP US History is challenging and stimulating and **compared with other high school courses, takes more time and requires more homework.** Homework is due at the beginning of class or when noted on Google Classroom. I cannot overemphasize the importance of putting effort into your homework. AP US History requires work at home to cover all of the topics necessary to perform well on summative tests throughout the semester as well as the AP Exam in May. Lack of effort on homework WILL have a negative effect on your child's grade in this class!

### **Assignments:**

In the course of the semester, the biggest assignments students will work on include, but are not limited to:

- Research Intensive Presentations
- Socratic Seminars
- Document Analysis and Interpretation
- Essays and Document Based Questions
- Unit Tests and Quizzes

This class is very discussion based. I understand that talking in class is not everyone's strongest point. My goal is for students to gain confidence and skills that they can take with them outside of the class.

### **Late Work:**

Due to the large workload and the constant threat of falling behind, my policies concerning late work and absences are as follows. Students must turn in all work on time to receive full credit. I will deduct 13% of the original grade students would have received for each of the three days after the original due date (max of 39% deduction). After that time, students will receive a zero for that assignment. Exams missed due to absence(s), will be taken within THREE

school days after their return unless prior arrangements are made. Students are strongly encouraged to let me know if they are going to miss class beforehand, if it is indeed possible to know, so that we can make a plan together for when work can be made up. Each student, not the teacher, is responsible for his/her make-up work.

### **LEAP Exam**

The US History Exam taken in December is a State of Louisiana Requirement for graduation. It tests roughly half of the material covered in AP US History. All US History students in the state must take this exam. Students normally do quite well and it really helps to boost their overall grade at the end of the semester.

### **AP Exam:**

The Advanced Placement US History Exam is the culminating activity of this course. Though not figured into their final grade, students are required to take the AP exams for all AP courses in which they are enrolled during the 2023-2024 school year. AP exams are beneficial because they serve as a valuable feedback tool to the student on a national scale. In addition, they help prepare students for future comprehensive exams at the college level. AP exams enable students to potentially receive university credit or advanced placement at most universities. St. Charles Parish Public Schools will pay the fees for the required AP exams. AP US History will be taking their exam on Friday May 10, 2024 from 8:00AM to 12:00PM here at Destrehan High School.

### **Final Advice:**

This course is challenging, but students can succeed in this class if they follow these key steps:

- Keep up with assignments; it will be less stressful in the long run.
- Ask for help when they need it. I am here to help your child succeed!
- Work hard every day...all have the potential to excel

Your child will be receiving a copy of the course syllabus, which I will review in grave detail on the first day of class. I ask that you also go over the material with your child at home so that we all know what can be expected and we can successfully begin the process of working together. As you can see AP US History may be hard work but by working together, we can make this year a great one, one that may be memorable for all the right reasons.

Sincerely,

Maxwell Suitt  
AP US History  
Destrehan High School