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### **A.P. United States History and Government (2025-2026)**

Teachers: Ms. Ortiz, Mr. Herrera, and Ms. Bauso

Welcome to U.S. History and Government! This year, we'll explore the social, economic, and political history of the United States through key themes and diverse perspectives. In this Regents/AP survey course, you'll be expected to think critically, ask deep questions, make connections, and use evidence to support your ideas in both discussion and writing. Students will engage in learning through projects, presentations, and other interactive activities to deepen their understanding.

Our guiding question throughout the year will be:

**"How have people in the United States resisted oppression and fought to improve their lives?"**

Below, you'll find our course's key understandings, unit overviews, and expectations. Please review this document and keep it at the front of your binder for reference. We're excited for a great year ahead!

| September                                                                       | October                                                                  | November                                                                   | December – Jan.                             | February                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1:</b><br>Indigenous Peoples, Colonization & Settlement                 | <b>Unit 2:</b><br>American Revolution<br><br><b>Unit 3:</b> A New Nation | <b>Unit 3:</b> A New Nation cont.<br><br><b>Unit 4:</b> Westward Expansion | <b>Unit 5:</b> Civil War and Reconstruction | <b>Unit 6:</b> The Gilded Age and Progressive Era<br><br><b>Unit 7:</b> American Imperialism |
| March                                                                           |                                                                          | April                                                                      | May                                         | June                                                                                         |
| <b>Unit 8:</b> The Great Depression and WWII<br><br><b>Unit 9:</b> The Cold War |                                                                          | <b>Unit 10:</b> Civil Rights in America                                    | <b>Unit 11:</b> 21st Century                | <b>Unit 11:</b> Regents Review                                                               |

#### **Year Long Understandings**

- We study the past to understand the present and make better decisions for the future.
- We examine history through multiple perspectives, and consider why some perspectives have been privileged or excluded in the past.
- We evaluate history as change and continuity over time, while emphasizing that “progress” is a subjective term.
- Individuals, groups, and governments make choices and decisions that shape the course of history.

**Grading Policy-** At PSC our main purpose of grades is to communicate to you how well you are mastering the content and skills of your class.

**Formative Assessments** will be given to practice the skills you are learning. **These will not be given a grade or will not be averaged into your grade.**

**Summative Assessments** will be given to measure how well you have mastered the content and skills of the class. There will be at least 5 summative assessments given each marking period. You will be given an opportunity to retake these assessments as long as you demonstrate you have done the practice necessary to improve. **These will be given a grade that is averaged into your final grade.**

- **Formative-** Daily Classwork grade, homework, Exit Tickets etc
- **Summative** -Writing Assignments (CHEAL paragraphs, response papers, research papers, argumentative essays)
- **Summative** - Performance-Based Assignments (Debates, prepared discussions such as Socratic Seminars, presentations, projects)
- **Summative** - Regents and AP Prep Assignments. quizzes and exams (Multiple choice, Document-Based Questions)
- ALL students are required to take the U.S. History Regents exam in June
- Students may sign up to take the AP exam for college credit that will be taken in May. Lots of studying required to do well on this exam.

\*Please regularly check **google classroom and DOE Grades** to see your progress.

**Homework:** Homework is an *essential* part of this class and is necessary for active participation in class on the following day. Often, homework will be an extension of classwork that day.

**\*\*\*Materials:** Please bring the following to class every day.

- **A three-ring binder** to keep all notes, handouts, class work, and homework in chronological order
- Loose-leaf paper
- Writing utensils

**Attendance:** Lateness will affect their success in this class. If you are absent, you are responsible for getting all missed notes and handouts, and making up all missed class work and homework. Check the “Daily Handouts” bin for missed handouts.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism, or copying others’ words/work without giving credit is against the law. You will receive a zero for, and must redo any assignment in which you participate in cheating or plagiarism.

**Respect:** We will respect all people and ideas in the classroom.

**Contact Info:** Please feel free to contact us anytime at the school (718) 832-4300, or **by e-mail at [hortizs@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:hortizs@schools.nyc.gov), [aherrera21@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:aherrera21@schools.nyc.gov)**

Sincerely,  
Ms. Ortiz, Mr. Herrera, and Ms. Bauso

# AI Use Policy for History Class

## What's Allowed

You **can use AI tools** (like ChatGPT) for:

- Brainstorming essay ideas or outlines
- Explaining confusing topics or historical concepts
- Practicing with quiz-style questions or flashcards
- Getting help with grammar and editing (like spellcheck or clarity)

But... **you must still do your own thinking.**

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## What's NOT Allowed

You **may NOT use AI** to:

- Write your whole assignment or answer questions word-for-word
  - Generate essays, short answers, or DBQs without your own edits
  - Copy and paste AI-generated answers as your own work
  - Skip reading primary sources or class materials and rely on AI summaries
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## What You Should Do Instead

- If you use AI, be transparent. Add a short note at the bottom of your assignment:

“I used ChatGPT to help brainstorm this topic and check grammar.”

If you're unsure if something's okay, ask first — I'm here to help!

- Think of AI like a *study buddy* — helpful for practice and review, but not someone to do your homework for you.

## What Happens If AI is Used Inappropriately

If I believe an assignment was mostly or fully written by AI:

- We'll have a conversation about it, no automatic penalty at first
- You may be asked to explain your thinking or redo the assignment in class
- Repeat cases may be treated as academic dishonesty

**AP United States History and Government**

**Teacher: Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Herrera**

\*Please sign and return this agreement and contact info by Monday, September 12th. Thank you!

*I have read and understand the course guidelines and expectations.*

Student Name (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period #: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Name (PRINT) : \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything you would like me to know about your child?

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