August 13, 2018

Dear Students and Parents,

 It is a pleasure to welcome you to my **Advanced Placement U.S. History class (APUSH)**. I will make every effort to make your class a great one where lots of learning will take place. In order to accomplish our goals of success, I am sharing with you those supplies that you will need for this class and the rules that need to be followed along with a general outline and expectations for the course.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: **(please purchase by next class period as we will be setting up our notebooks)**

1. Each student will be issued a textbook (*The American Pageant)* that they may leave at home to complete reading and homework assignments as well as for study use. We will have a class set of *The American Pageant* textbook to use at school in class.

**(A SUGGESTED resource that you can purchase** [**https://www.amscopub.com/united-states-history-preparing-for-the-advanced-placement-examination-2018-edition-77317.html**](https://www.amscopub.com/united-states-history-preparing-for-the-advanced-placement-examination-2018-edition-77317.html)**.**

 **We have a class set of these books, but it would be very helpful to have your own copy ☺**

2. pen or pencil

3. **spiral** notebook (**5 subject with pockets**)

4. pack of printer paper

5. pack of glue sticks

CLASS RULES:

1. Respect yourself, your teachers, your classmates, and property.

2. Come to class prepared with your notebook, supplies, and homework.

3. Listen carefully and do not interrupt instruction.

4. Do not eat, drink or chew gum obnoxiously in class. I understand that this is the first class of the day and I want you to be AWAKE. So, if you demonstrate maturity, it would be OK to have your morning beverage or snack in class.

5. No cell phones or electronics use in class unless authorized by teacher.

 The rules are simple ones. They have been established so that learning may take place in the classroom. Parents, please go over these rules and the importance of being prepared with your child.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

**Quarter 1** – Period 1 (1491-1607); Period 2 (1607-1754); Period 3 (1754–1800); Period 4 (1800–1848)

**Quarter 2 –** Period 4 (1800-1848); Period 5 (1844-1877); Period 6 (1865-1898)

**Quarter 3 –** Period 6 (1865-1898); Period 7 (1890-1945); Period 8 (1945-1980)

**Quarter 4 –** Period 8 (1945-1980); Period 9 (1980-present) & EXAM review

How grades are determined: THE POINT SYSTEM

Assignments including tests, quizzes, homework, classwork, notebook, projects, etc. are worth a certain amount of points. Your goal in this class should be to strive to receive the highest amount of points possible for each assignment.

At the end of the quarter, I add up all of the points that you have received throughout the quarter. Then the total number of points that you have accumulated is divided by the total number of possible points. This gives you a percentage. Finally, check the Duval County grading scale to see what letter grade your percentage is equivalent to. TESTS COUNT MORE THAN ONCE…THIS IS NOT A MISTAKE IN THE GRADEBOOK.

An example…

Assignment Possible points Your points

1. homework questions 100 85

2. book report 300 275

3. notebook 250 200

4. quiz 100 100

5. homework worksheet 50 30

TOTAL 800 690

YOUR GRADE 690/800 = .8625 = 86% = B

**DUVAL COUNTY GRADING SCALE**

A = 90 -100 B – 80 - 89 C = 70 - 79 D = 60 - 69 F = 0 – 59

**\*AP EXAM – Friday, May 10, 2019 – Students need to earn a 3 or higher (on a 1-5 scale) on the exam for the course to be considered for college credit at several colleges and universities. You should check out the credit requirements for colleges in which you are interested.**

I encourage all students and parents to monitor grades via the county online grade book (FOCUS). Login information can be obtained from the main office. I will also utilize the following website for class information, various links, weekly overviews, etc. – **vanlue.weebly.com. Hover over the home tab and click on your class. The following College Board site is also quite helpful:**  **https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-us-history-course-and-exam-description.pdf**

 Every student will receive a syllabus at the beginning of each new quarter. The syllabus will outline what we will be learning for that quarter, what class and homework assignments are due, when projects or reports are due, and when tests and quizzes will occur. Specific assignment sheets outlining expectations for any projects or reports will be given to students well in advance of the due date. The syllabus may be amended from time to time and students will be made aware of any changes in class and on my website (vanlue.weebly.com). **Please be aware that good attendance is essential for success in this class.** Many of the lessons are experiential in nature or require cooperation among a group of students. Learning through exercises like these cannot be effective if a student is not here. This course attempts to develop higher level thinking skills by emphasizing analysis and evaluation often through the writing of formal essays. Understand that it is a ***college level course*** and it is crucial to keep up with the assigned work, readings and homework if you plan to be successful in this class.

The district attendance policy allows students to make up work if they have an excused absence. Students are given the same number of days that they were absent to make up the work.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 247-5905 ext. 1115. You may leave a message and I will make every attempt to return your call within 24 hours. You may also email me: vanluec@duvalschools.org. Conferences can be arranged through the Guidance office

 I am looking forward to an exciting year and meeting you all. I am **very** interested in the academic success of my students and know that you are as well.

 Sincerely,

Coleen VanLue

AP U.S. History Teacher