

## Overview

The 11<sup>th</sup> Grade AP U.S. History course is a survey course covering American history from the Pre-Columbian period to the present. The class is taught in accordance with the AP U.S. History curriculum framework and focuses on the development of four historical thinking skills and an understanding of content through the lens of seven themes. The course is organized and taught in line with AP curriculum framework, examining nine historical periods, with key concepts, supporting ideas, and historical thinking skills within each period. See the [AP US History website](#)<sup>1</sup> for more information.

Because Tesla STEM High School has a focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, the course will work to make connections to the impact of scientific exploration, invention, and technology on American history. For example, the course will examine American's beliefs and assumptions about nature; the difference between the "pastoral" and "progressive" ideals that characterized early 19th-century American culture; links between scientific and technological advances, and the way both society and culture determine these links; and the impact of technological change on Policy-making in U.S. history.

## Powerschool website

I try to use my [Powerschool website](#) on a daily basis. Students should get in the habit of checking the site regularly for all of the information about assigned readings, homework, and test schedules. I will make every effort to make all changes and additions to the site before 4:00 pm.

## Textbooks

Each student will check out a copy of *Making America*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (Berkin, et al., 2018). Students should keep this book at home and return it at the end of the year.

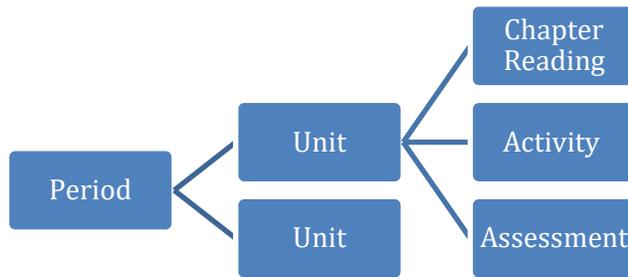
Students will make frequent use of primary documents and content from several other texts. I post this content on my Powerschool page, but sometimes it is distributed in class as well.

## Schedule

The course is divided into nine periods that map to the nine historical periods developed for the AP course. Each period covers between 1-5 chapters of our textbook and is generally subdivided into two or three units, designed to introduce historical themes and thinking skills and using a variety of instructional activities and assessments. Each period has several selected readings, chapter quizzes, and a formative assessment like a short essay or small group project, and each period ends with a summative exam that resembles the AP exam, containing multiple choice questions, and/or one or more of the three different types of Free Response Questions adapted from AP sources.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-united-states-history/course-details>



Each unit is guided by three or more specific questions to help students approach and explore the larger ideas for the period. The questions are always in a form that helps students think critically about the AP's thematic approach, and also to become familiar with the style of questions found on the AP exam.

#### Introduction

- **September**
- **Reading Assignments:** (completed over the summer): *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

#### PERIOD 1: 1491-1607

- **September**
- **Reading Assignments:** *Making America*, Chapters 1-2

#### PERIOD 2: 1607-1754

- **September**
- **Reading Assignments:** *Making America*, Chapters 3-4

Chapter quizzes, formative assessments in each unit, combined Summative assessment at end of Periods 1 & 2

#### PERIOD 3 1754-1800

- **October**
- **Reading Assignments:** *Making America*, Chapters 5-7

Chapter quizzes, formative assessments in each unit, Summative assessment at end of Period

#### PERIOD 4 1800-1848

- **October/November**
- **Reading Assignments:** *Making America*, Chapters 8-12

Chapter quizzes, formative assessments in each unit, Summative assessment at end of Period

#### PERIOD 5: 1844-1877

- **November/December**
- **Reading Assignments:** *Making America*, Chapters 13-15

Chapter Quizzes, formative assessments in each unit, Summative assessment at end of Period

PERIOD 6 1865–1898

- **December/January**
- **Reading Assignments:** *Making America*, Chapters 16-18

Chapter Quizzes ,formative assessments in each unit, Summative assessment at end of Period

PERIOD 7 1890–1945

- **January/February**
- **Reading Assignments:** *Making America*, Chapters 19-23

Chapter Quizzes, formative assessments in each unit, Summative assessment at end of Period

PERIOD 8 1945–1980

- **March**
- **Reading Assignments:** *Making America*, Chapters 24-27

Chapter Quizzes, formative assessments in each unit, Summative assessment at end of Period

PERIOD 9: 1980-present

- **March/April**
- **Reading Assignments:** *Making America*, Chapters 28-29

Chapter Quizzes Formative assessments in each unit, combined Summative assessment at end of Period 9

AP Test Preparation

- **April/May**
- **Content:** Practice with released exams; study groups to review periods, themes
- **AP US History Exam: Friday, May 10**

International Relations – a .5 credit course

Course includes State directed CBA (Classroom Based Assessment)

- **May/June**

## Grading Policy

At Tesla STEM High School, grades are based on the following percentage system:

- A** : 90 to 100
- B+** : < 90 and  $\geq$  87
- B** : < 87 and  $\geq$  84
- B-** : < 84 and  $\geq$  80
- C+** : < 80 and  $\geq$  77
- C** : < 77 and  $\geq$  73
- C-** : < 73 and  $\geq$  70
- NC** : < 69 and below
- No Ds or Fs

I compute grades using *cumulative* points earned over the semester. Grades are earned on classroom work and assessments in four categories – percentages are only an approximation. I do not weight categories

- **30% Quizzes/Unit tests:** Chapter quizzes on main content of each chapter or combined chapters, using source-based multiple-choice questions so that students get practice in format of AP exam; these are typically 10-20 points
- **20% Class work:** Short-term projects or homework to measure students' ability to identify main points of the readings or develop outlines for the chapter concepts, etc. Homework is typically 5-10 point assignments
- **20% Short Essays:** Asks students to synthesize a selection of primary sources to answer a question based on prior AP Exams and/or content from the textbook; typically 5-10 points.
- **30% Period Tests:** In-depth evaluations to gauge, at a particular point in time, student learning relative to content standards. Will include multiple-choice questions and both document-based and free response essays (FRQs) so students can get practice with the format of the AP Exam; these can be up to 40 points.

I do not have extra credit assignments. Please don't expect me to reconsider a previous grade or adjust your grade upward at the semester.

## Late Work & Absences

Students are expected to attend every class, and to participate in every discussion, and to be prepared for quizzes, essays, and tests. If you know in advance that you will be absent, please see me as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

Late papers will be accepted without penalty in the case of a medical emergency or some other type of emergency that has been brought to my attention. Otherwise, late papers will suffer a penalty of 10% for each day they are late. Late work will be graded according to the assignment's rubric and then the penalty will be assessed.

The late assignment will receive a zero until it is complete. Once it is complete, I will grade it and enter the grade into the online grade book. ALL LATE WORK MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE RELEVANT PERIOD EXAM.

Tesla STEM High School prepares students to be successful in college as well as develop real world skills. Turning school work in on time provides students with the structure necessary to develop time management and task completion skills. This policy is intended to contribute to solid work habits and academic success.

If you are absent for any reason, it is **your** responsibility to check with me to discuss any work missed or assigned while you were away.

## **Academic Honesty**

As detailed in the LWSD Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook, plagiarism in any form is not tolerated. Plagiarism will result in a 0 in the gradebook, and these offenses will be dealt with as per the student handbook.

## **For Parents: Communicating with me**

Communication between parents and teachers is essential in helping students be successful in school. I want you to be able to contact me whenever you have any questions or concerns about your student.

This year my office hours will be

Mon., Tues., Thurs.	2:20 – 3:30
Friday	2:20 – 3:00

You may also reach me at the phone number or email listed below:

Phone: **425-936-2770**

Email: **[aivy@lwsd.org](mailto:aivy@lwsd.org)**

I do not use voicemail.

Please understand that I devote all of my classroom time to the students, so I do not answer phone calls or emails during class. However, I will return phone calls or email within 48 hours (usually sooner).

*Please complete and sign this page and return to me by the end of this week.*

Student Name:

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(print)

I have read and understand the expectations and policies described in Mr. Ivy's syllabus for the U.S. History class at Tesla STEM High School. By signing this, I recognize that I am responsible for my own actions, behaviors, and academic performance.

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

I am sharing this with my parents and asking them to sign as well to show that they have also read and understand the expectations and policies.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_