**Advanced American History Course Syllabus**

**Instructors:** Brandon Ransom email brandon.ransom@raypec.org

 David Stark email david.stark@raypec.org

 Andrew James email andrew.james@raypec.org

 Derek Howard email derek.howard@raypec.org

**TEXT:** Kennedy, David M., et al. *The American Pageant.* **Thirteenth Edition.** (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006).

**Course Description:** The Advanced American History class is designed for students to analytically examine the history of the United States and its people through political, economic and social change from the 15th century to modern day. The ultimate goal of this course is to introduce the student to the critical thinking skills one will need to succeed in future AP, IB and college courses. Students should expect to read the text and outside primary resources including various historical documents that will aid in enhancing critical thinking skills while analyzing the history of the United States. Students will also be required to form strong opinions based on practical historical knowledge and express their opinion via formal writing assignments including critical essays. Students will gain the skills of not just knowing history but how to analyze the trends of the past and how they affect the political, economic, and social landscapes that shape the world we live in today. Hard work, dedication and determination will be vital to succeed in this class.

**Assessments/Grading:** Students will be assessed in a variety of ways including quizzes, formal tests (both constructed response and essay), writing analytical essays, document based essays, and various projects. There will be unit tests and a final exam each semester. The following is a breakdown of how the class assessments will count towards the total grade per semester.

 **Unit Tests, Quizzes, Projects, Formal Writing Assignments, Homework =90%**

 **Final Exam= 10%**

**\*Homework assignments/Homework quizzes will be given to both help learn material and practice certain skills, but will not weigh heavily in the overall grade. However, homework will prepare you for the unit assessment and give you feedback as to how you are doing in the unit.**

**Grading Scale:** The grading scale for the course will follow the Ray-Pec grading scale outlined in the student handbook.

**Late Work Policy:** At Raymore-Peculiar High School, academic achievement, student responsibility, and student success are of paramount importance. All homework, assignments, or project deadlines will be strictly adhered to as defined by the classroom teacher. Student failure to complete work by an established deadline will result in a corresponding grade that matches the completed nature of the content being submitted at the time of the deadline. Students who fail to submit any work at the time of a deadline can expect that a zero will be entered for their grade.

**Redo Policy:** With the above policy being implemented, however, the staff and administration at RPHS fully understand that all students learn at different rates and under different parameters, and we believe that every student should be afforded the opportunity for academic success. Therefore, in an attempt to honor our commitment to student success, RPHS will provide our students with the opportunity to “relearn/redo” information based on specific and timely teacher feedback. Throughout the course of the semester, students will be afforded three opportunities in each of their classes to redo homework, assignments, or projects which they did not complete or submit by a required deadline. It is very important to note that the purpose of this policy is to provide students with genuine opportunities to relearn information, *not to provide unlimited opportunities to redo materials.*  A redo can only be done within the six week grade period the assignment was given.

Before students are allowed to redo any material, they will be required to visit with the classroom teacher to establish the relearning parameters (a relearning contract if you wish) that must be fulfilled to demonstrate their efforts to relearn the information. In order to begin the relearning process, it will be the sole obligation and responsibility of the student to initiate a conversation or visit with the classroom teacher within one week of receiving a score and/or teacher feedback on the original assignment/activity. Once the relearning parameters have been established and agreed upon, any student failure to adhere to the newly established timeframe will cause an immediate forfeiture in the student’s ability to redo the assignment.

**Absent Work:**

 Any student that is absent is responsible for obtaining all missed notes and assignments. All materials covered in class can be found on the class web page at [**www.advancedamericanhistory.weebly.com**](http://www.advancedamericanhistory.weebly.com). The daily agenda section on the web page will outline what was done in class that day from notes, activities to homework assignments. The notes and assignments can be found under the appropriate unit sub section on the web page. Students will be given one class period per days missed to turn in any missed assignment for full credit.

**Reading/writing Assignments:** Students should expect more reading and formal writing assignments in this class than in regular history classes. It is important that students keep up with the reading and writing assignments in order to be successful in the course. In order to help minimize an extreme workload there will be times where some of these assignments will be worked on and completed in class. However, students should expect to have homework on a weekly basis. The goal is to challenge the students and help them become better critical thinkers in their educational careers.

**Topics of Study:** We will be studying The History of the U.S from 1492 to Present. Due to the extensive amount of material we have to cover we will be covering on average about a chapter per week. The chapters cover about 25-30 pages. There will be class lectures and notes that will supplement the text, as well as in class articles and other in class activities.

**Classroom Expectations/Rules: This is an advanced class and students will conduct themselves accordingly**

* Be respectful to your classmates and their opinions
* Listen when the Instructor is talking
* Be prepared on a daily basis with the appropriate supplies and assignments
* Have a positive attitude!!!!!!!
* Participate! Participate! Participate!
* This class will follow all rules and procedures outlined in the Student handbook in regards to cell phones, tardies, I-pod use, etc.

**Classroom Procedures:** Each class will begin with a DLO (Daily Learning Objective) question. The student will copy down the question in the notebook and at the end of class they will be able to answer the question based on class notes, activities, discussions, etc. The rest of class will consist of a combination of the following depending on the particular lesson:

* Classroom Notes
* Cooperative learning activities
* Reading/Analyzing primary and secondary sources and documents
* Class Discussions
* Videos
* Work time on Projects (Research and Product based)

**SIS Grades:** Grades will be updated weekly in SIS. I would ask that you keep in mind it will take some time for true qualitative evaluations on tests, essays and projects. I believe that timely feedback is important and I will do my best to give quality feedback in a timely manner. It is important for the Student to keep all graded assignments and projects in their notebook until the end of the year. This will help them study for the major exams in class, and clear any confusion on possible missed assignments due to instructor error.

**Course Supplies:**

* Three Ring Binder (2-3 inch)
* 5 Dividers
* Paper
* Writing Utensils
* Chromebook

***Minds are like parachutes. They only work when they are open.***