

APPLICATION FOR ADVANCED PLACEMENT *UNITED STATES HISTORY*
(11th grade & 12th grade elective)

Name of Student: _____ (please print)

Advanced Placement classes are designed to provide academically talented students with the opportunity of completing college level coursework while in high school. The courses are very demanding in terms of time and effort. They require **at least eight to ten hours of outside preparation work each week.** There is also the possibility that there will be occasional meetings outside of the regular class schedule. Students are required to do summer reading and there will be an examination on this reading during the first week of class. Books and materials for the classes are often more expensive than those for other classes. There are usually four or five books for the class, and college texts are expensive. Students in Advanced Placement classes are required to take the Advanced Placement Examinations in May of the school year. There is a fee of approximately \$86 for these exams. Universities may award students credit and/or placement in more advanced classes for successful performance on the AP exams - how this is done varies with each college.

What is covered in AP United States History? The class is a survey of the United States from the colonial period to the present, focusing on the people, events, ideas and trends that have shaped this history. Students spend a good deal of time studying original historical documents and scholarly materials by professional historians. Students will study different methods of analyzing and writing history, and the different interpretations presented by professional historians.

Why should you enroll in an AP class? (1) The classes are challenging, interesting and stimulating. (2) You will gain an in-depth understanding of the subject. (3) It is possible to receive college credit and/or placement if you do well in the class and on the AP Exam. (4) Colleges place a high value on students who enroll in AP classes. (5) You will learn valuable skills for successful performance in college (and at Judge).

Who should enroll in AP classes? (1) Students who genuinely enjoy the subject. (2) Students who enjoy challenges. (3) Students with strong reading and writing skills. (4) Students who have disciplined, responsible study habits. (5) Students who enjoy dealing with ideas. (6) Students who are more concerned with learning than with grades. (There is a good possibility that your grades will initially decline in an AP class when compared with grades in non-AP classes; this often reverses as the year progresses.)

Please Note: Once enrolled, students are required to remain in AP United States History for the entire school year. After 1 semester, at the discretion of the teacher, students may be dropped from the course for any of the following reasons: (1) Academic performance below a C grade level. (2) Failure to submit work in a timely and responsible manner. (3) Inappropriate classroom behavior.

Complete the following information:

1. Cumulative Grade Point Average: _____

2. Social Studies/History Grades:

(Include all that apply)

(Name only; **signature not required**)

Freshman year average: _____

Teacher: _____

1st Semester Sophomore year: _____

Teacher: _____

2nd Semester Sophomore year: _____

Teacher: _____

1st Semester Junior Year: _____

Teacher: _____

3RD Quarter Junior Year: _____

Teacher: _____

3. Answer the ESSAY QUESTION described on the back of this application.

4. Return completed application to Mr. Van Orden (Room 206) by

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2010

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

(over)

SHORT ESSAY: On a separate sheet of paper, type an organized and focused response to the question identified below. Your response should show serious thought and consideration; it should be an academic, not personal, response. The thoughts should be your own, not those of another philosopher or historian. Your response should not exceed one typed, double-spaced page. Your short essay should be attached to this application form.

The Question:

What is an American?

For Department Use Only

_____ Recommended

Comments:

_____ Recommended w/Reservations

_____ Not Recommended
