

## Advanced Placement U.S. History

Instructor: Gregory Garcia

Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/apps4pps.net/mr-garcia-s-quaker-quarterdeck/ap-us-history>

**Course description:** In this class we will examine the complex American experience from colonial times to modern day. In eight months (less than a year in college), you will be covering three sophomore level college classes (HST 201, HST 202, HST 203) and **you can take a test to earn those college credits before graduating high school.**

### **Schedule of topics/units covered:**

#### **APUSH HISTORY COVERS 515+ YEARS OF HISTORY AT WARP SPEED.**

**Semester 1:** Period 1: (1491-1607) Period 2: (1607-1754) Period 3: (1754-1800) Period 4: (1800-1848) Period 5: (1848-1877) Period 6: (1865-1898)

**Semester 2:** Period 7: (1898-1945) Period 8: (1945-1980) Period 9: (1980-Present)

<b><u>What We CAN'T Control About APUSH</u></b>	<b><u>What We CAN Control About APUSH</u></b>
1. Attendance (either in class or at the very least Mr. García's Special Tutorial sessions <b>in case of emergency</b> ) is mandatory.	1. Mr. García will <b><u>always</u></b> provide food (Cheetos are at end of the week and other special occasions) and a raffle at the end of the week.
2. Our "CollegeBoard Overlords" require you to answer questions in a specific format that they invent (aka the SAQ, LEQ and DBQ).	2. Mr. García will provide you multiple strategies (almost word for word) <b><u>so you can beat these clowns by using their system to your advantage.</u></b>
3. You must interact with at least one chapter from a college textbook each week.	3. Mr. García has provided videos which summarize the chapters. Mr. García has also developed <b><u>EXPRESS NOTES</u></b> which condense the materials from six different textbooks on a single page of paper for you to answer. These systems are intended to accommodate you if you have other obligations (i.e. sports, drama, other AP classes).
4. You must study over 515 years of U.S. History (Pre-Columbus to now) to be prepared for the APUSH test.	4. Mr. García has instead invented activities (Historical Theater, Terminator puzzles, scavenger hunt races, simulations, Nuclear War meets Dungeons and Dragons games and other fun activities) where you actively interact with the material to learn about the past's complexities.

**Assignment Policy:** Mr. García goes out of his way not to assign additional assignments outside of class, except FUN/TAG activities. Most assignments (barring snow days or special schedules) are given in class with ample time to start, if not finish. **Assignments given in class are graded during a two day grading period. Missing assignments are not calculated in the gradebook until after the second day.** Assignments can be handed in **without penalty** for two weeks after the grading period. **Afterwards, a 20 percent deduction is given for every week the assignment is missing (without a valid excuse) until the score hits zero.**

**Reading/Express Notes:** Since this class is the equivalent of a sophomore level college History course, interaction with a textbook is an inevitable requirement. However, Mr. García has developed a series of condensed outlines called Express Notes. Each Express Note sheet contains the combined content (Key Events, Key Concepts, Key People) of over 6 different APUSH Textbooks. **Content designated with double asterisks (\*\*) will be covered in class.** If a student properly includes that material in the day's lesson (namely handouts or writing it down in their notebook), they have satisfied the definition of that concept. Students are encouraged to keep these materials to study for the AP US History Test.

Whatever events, concepts, people that do not have the double asterisks is content that must be defined in the student's notebook. **If a student is absent, it is his/her/their responsibility to define all content in the Express Notes packet.** If you are struggling with the text's moldy oldy definition, go to **britannica.com** and type in the person or key term with which you if you are struggling. **Encyclopedia Britannica** is the gold standard for entry level historical research. **IT'S WAY BETTER THAN WIKIPEDIA.**

Express Notes are graded at the beginning of each of the nine periods in the AP US History curriculum. Students who only show completion of the handouts/materials handed out in class will score 3 out of 5 points per page. Complete work merits full points.

**There is no penalty for late notes.** Express notes can be handed in by the **last day of first semester without any penalty whatsoever** and **the day before the AP US History test for the second semester, also without penalty.** While timeliness is important, having the necessary material to properly prepare for the AP US History test in May is far more important.

**"Fun Activities:"** Because the CollegeBoard curriculum can be mind-numbingly dry, Mr. García has invented some "fun activities" designed to develop the same skills but without the pretentious academic overtones. These fun activities (debates about alien contact, Terminator puzzles, Assassin's Creed missions, multiverse debates etc.) are given out with almost every lesson. Each activity can be redeemed for **three extra credit points**: 1 point for completion, 1 point if APUSH skill is met, 1 point if the fun activity has 4 pieces of properly used evidence from the Express Notes (preferably content not mentioned in class so they can count as definitions) if **a legible photo** is emailed to Mr. García at his email **ggarcia1@pps.net** **with the title of the activity as the subject.** Points will be awarded within two weeks of the lesson.

**Quiz Policy:** To prepare students for the various portions of the APUSH test, quizzes are assigned **roughly once a week (announcements will be made in advance)** as warmup for the day. Quizzes range from Multiple Choice Quizzes (MCQs) which are worth 8 points, to Short Answer Quizzes (SAQs) which are worth 9 points to Long Essay Quizzes (LEQs) which are worth 20 points. **RETAKE policy:** If students are dissatisfied with their original results, **they may retake a quiz/test only once.** Students retaking a quiz or test **MUST** visit Mr. Garcia to review the material prior to the retake so that students can have the best chance of improving on their original score.

**Honors Credit:** In addition to having the potential to earn college credit, honors credit is also available through History Buff Activities which range from relativistic time dilation equations, movie reviews and historical figure meet and greets. **For honors credit, you need to complete 1 History Buff Activity (which includes time dilation equations, movie reviews, original music, fashion, etc.) per semester OR** Complete the Code of History Activity chronicling the history of your family from 1491 to 1900 for Semester 1 and 1900 to Present for Semester 2.

**Special Tutorial:** To help students develop their historical analysis skills Mr. García guarantees his availability at least once a week independent of the tutorial schedule. Mr. García's special tutorial happens **every Wednesday from 3:15-5:00+ in SS-227.**

**What do we do after the Test?** For the six weeks after the test is taken in May, Mr. García will show you how to make money with your historical skills. As a Professional Public Historian, Mr. García has designed museum exhibits and has published articles and an upcoming monograph on baseball history in Oregon. **For your final,** you will research, design and build your own museum exhibit **covering the history of anything you want. Seriously, the world does NOT need another report on George Washington, the Gettysburg Address or the "Founding Fathers." It needs the History of Rap Music, Toys, Comic Books, and the lives of people your textbook ignores.** If the topic is something you would pay money to see (provided it's school appropriate), you can research, design and build it with the school's 3D Printer/Laser Engraver. **Internship Opportunity:** The Franklin Historical Society, the museum that you will create, is an officially registered partner of the Oregon Historical Society. Depending on your topic (especially local/non-Anglo topics), the OHS may archive your information so that it can be used for other Historians in their research. You also have the option to work for the OHS in the summer. It looks **REALLY** great on a resume!

**Your Grade:** Everything entered in Synergy fits into one of three categories (assignment, quiz and test) and is calculated by the following percentages:  
Reading/Assignments: 20% of total grade, Quizzes: 30% of total grade, Test/Project: 50% of total grade.

**Cell Phone Policy:** Since Cell Phones and other electronics can enhance the educational experience **when used properly,** Mr García allows the use of electronics **under certain designated ("Tech Okay") times. Cell phones are not allowed during warmup or debriefing (last 20 minutes of class) time.** Students will know when it is appropriate to use their electronics because Mr. García goes out of his way --using a speech you will know by heart at the end of the semester-- to let you know when cell phones are okay to use.

**Appropriate Cell Phone Behavior:** Cell phones can be used for research purposes (finding facts for puzzles and History Buff activities) and you can listen to music while you work **provided you have earbuds.** You may like your jam, your classmates may like your jam and even Mr. García may like your jam but please be courteous and keep your music to yourself.

**Phone Calls:** Cell phones must be kept on silent/vibrate at all times. If you are expecting a phone call, please let Mr. García know before class and when you receive the call signal to Mr. García and he will allow you to take the call in the hallway provided you are within eyesight.

**Inappropriate Cell Phone Behavior: Cell phones may NOT be used for Games/Social Media purposes (Including, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat) AT ANY TIME.** If a student leaves class while taking a phone call (going beyond eyesight and never returning), his/her/their cell phone privileges may be revoked and disciplinary action may be instigated if a valid explanation is not given by the student. Having electronics out during inappropriate (“Tech Away”) times will result in subtle reminders to put the device away.

**Enforcement of Cell Phone Policy:** Mr. García will constructively work with you to satisfy your electronic needs (i.e. subtle reminders, allowing you to take calls in the hallway, etc.) while maintaining a respectful and functional classroom environment. Usually, these solutions do not result in the confiscation of electronics. If, however, a diplomatic solution cannot be reached, the device in question will be confiscated and the school’s disciplinary process goes into full effect. Mr. García can count the number of times this has happened on one hand in his entire career of teaching.

**Bathroom Policy:** One person at a time. Unless it is an emergency, bathroom use is not allowed during the warmup and debriefing times. Since the bathroom is located so far away from the classroom, you are allowed 10-15 minutes for bathroom use. Trips to the bathroom lasting longer than 15 minutes requires an explanation. Bathroom trips lasting longer than 20 minutes will result in security being called because at that point something is clearly wrong. In that event, the spare pass will be used so others can still go.

**Food/Drink Policy:** Mr. García will provide food for you. At the end of the week and on special occasions, Mr. García will provide Cheetos. (If you prefer a different kind of “premium snack food” please let Mr. García know and he’ll see what he can do). You can bring your own as well. That being said, please make efforts to keep the classroom clean. If you brought it to your desk, you throw it out when it’s done. Drinks are allowed if and only if the drinks have lids.

**Answering Questions/Handling “the Floor:”** When someone is officially recognized by Mr. García, please be respectful to that person by not having side conversations and giving that person your attention. If you would like to add something, please raise your hand. **PLEASE TREAT ALL POINTS OF VIEW WITH RESPECT. No sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic or otherwise derogatory language. This is not just good school policy, it’s good History.** The more perspectives we have, the more our historical understanding grows. As a major Trekkie, Mr. García runs his classes with the philosophy of **Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations**, the ideology of the United Federation of Planets (Earth’s government in the 24th Century) where wonder replaces judgment.

**Mr. García's Famous Weekly Raffle:** Mr. García has reached out to organizations across the country for donated materials. At the end of the week, **provided students are on task and working hard**, a raffle will be held where winning students can earn prizes ranging from T-Shirts/action figures to free meals at nearby restaurants to Blazer tickets and (occasionally) concert tickets at the Moda Center. **Blazer/Timbers Ticket Policy:** Tickets are announced a week in advance and are **usually** scheduled on non-school nights. If you win Blazer tickets **you and a plus one (friend, parent, other family member, etc.)** get to go to the game. **If you take the Blazer tickets PLEASE make every effort to go.** The arrangement Mr. García has with the Blazers is that at least 75 percent of the tickets he receives get used over the school year. If tickets don't get used, the deal is off and the school is locked out of their donation system. If you win, you have to wait for **three weeks** until you can win again unless it's a big raffle which takes place after every test. **About the raffle tickets:** Tickets can be earned for a wide range of behaviors including, but not limited to, regular attendance, good note-taking skills, correctly answering questions in class/trivia game activities and **keeping the room clean.** The best way you can earn tickets is by scoring A's on quizzes and tests.

**An "A" on a quiz gets you 8 tickets. An "A" on a test gets you 16 tickets**

**Haven't Taken an AP History Class before? A'ole Pilikia (No Problem in Hawaiian):**

Mr. García has had students come in who have had no exposure to Advanced Placement classes whatsoever and they end the year scoring 4s and 5s on the exam. **The best thing you can do is try.** Mr. García will help you! That's why he gets paid. **Don't "throw away your shot" and always remember "A'ole pilikia" (pronounced "Ah-Ooh-LAY Pee-Lee-KEY-lah).** Take a shot! If you're not happy with the outcome, talk to Mr. García and we'll get 'em fixed. **REMEMBER:** All materials for the course are available on Mr. Garcia's website, the Quaker Quarterdeck listed in the URL on the other side of this syllabus. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at [ggarcia1@pps.net](mailto:ggarcia1@pps.net).

**LOOKING FORWARD TO AN OUTSTANDING YEAR!**