**AP US HISTORY Invitation**

September 12, 2016

Dear Novi High Students and Parents:

This letter is an invitation to join me in a year-long effort to prepare for the AP US History Exam . . . and beyond**!**

When we consider the College Board’s AP US Exam and the world that is awaiting Novi High students after graduation, we know that tomorrow’s college students, tomorrow’s workers, and tomorrow’s citizens will be asked to problem solve, be creative and analytical, and draw from a deep understanding about how the world works.

This course is designed accordingly.

**Join me on The History Chase!**

Students who buy in and become historians for the year tend do extremely well on the AP Exam. What I’ve learned after teaching this course for 16 years: students who \*really\* do the reading and see the course work as opportunities to expand their content knowledge and skill set tend to do better—a lot better. Students who go through the motions, focus on doing tasks simply because they’re worth points, cut corners by hunting and pecking for answers tend to produce more surface level work. It’s like magic, but when students have an extensive understanding of the content knowledge, they tend to develop more original positions and have deeper points to make. As I say a lot, focus on the work, and the grades will follow.

As I’ve told the students, Social Studies is Power! This class is an opportunity for students to learn more about the world and to be better thinkers. The student is “The Boss” of his or her learning. Students can be pro-active and regularly ask themselves, “What do I need to do prepare myself for the next exam?” We are here to support our students, but it is their education.

Academic Advisory is a great opportunity to come in and get some targeted help. I also have Office Hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school.

Since learning is very much a partnership, I hold the same level of standards for myself. I am committed to providing the best education possible. As the teacher, I bring a very solid foundation of historical knowledge as well as research-based lessons that help students learn both the content and how to reason historically. Besides leading us in instruction day to day, I can provide extra help. This course is designed in a way that helps students develop thinking habits that will serve them well on the exam and beyond. By each of us doing our part, success is sure to come.

I look forward to a fun and productive year together.  If you need to reach me, please call me at the high school or send me an email.

Thanks!

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**AP US HISTORY Syllabus**

Mr. Rod Franchi

Novi High School

Social Studies Department

Room 261

rfranchi@novischools.net

248 449-1212 ext. 9128

**Office Hours**

Besides Academic Advisory, I also have office hours. Check with me first, but I am available most Tuesdays and

Thursdays after school.

**American History in 14 Eras**

1) *Brave New World*, 1491-1754

2) *Revolution*, 1754-1789

3) *The Great Experiment Begins*, 1789-1824

4) *Forging an American Identity*, 1819-1860

5) *The Peculiar Institution*, 1830-1861

6) *Retribution & Reconstruction*, 1861-1877

7) {Title to be determined by class}, 1865-1900

8) *American Idealism at Home & Abroad*, 1890-1920

9) *Boom, Bust, & and Big Government*, 1920-1938

10) *Total War*, 1938-1945

11) *Cold War Culture*, 1945-1960

12) *Rebellion & Division*, 1960-1974

13) A *Reordering*, 1975-2000

14) *A New America*, 2001-2016

**Grading Scale**

A: Master Historian

B: Accomplished Historian

C: Beginning Historian

D: Apprentice Historian

E: Prospective Historian

**Semester 1 Final Grade Calculation**

Fall Term: 85% Semester 1 Exam: 15%

15%: Historian’s Practices

30%: Content Knowledge

25%: Content Knowledge Applied

30%: Historian’s Argument



**Tests & Exams**

For major assessments, we will have either tests (generally covering 2 chapters) or exams (generally 4 chapters) Like the AP Exam, tests/exams will assess your understanding, primary source analysis, and writing. Also like the AP Exam, ours will feature both multiple choice and writing. Every moment of class and every bit of class work is designed to prepare students for these exams.

**Historian’s Notebook**

Much of our work is done in the Historian’s Notebook. Here students apply content and get the practice they need with the set of skills we learn. These notebooks will be collected and scored periodically.

**Google Classroom**

Miss class? Check for handouts, lessons, etc. here.

**Reading Pace**

We have reading quizzes over 2-3 chapters every 10 days or so. You can use your packet on the reading quizzes.

**Red Light Room**

To keep the focus on learning, we will be a red light room, however there will be opportunities to use our phones on some days.

**Deputy 255**

To help the period to run more smoothly, I am asking for student volunteers to be my deputy each week. A sign-up sheet be made available soon. At the end of the week, I will provide a token of my appreciation for your contributions

**Academic Integrity Policy**

Please see the schools’ policy. A violation of the school’s the Academic Integrity Policy will result in a loss of credit for that grade with no opportunity to make up that credit. Also, students will be reported to their administrator. As you might hear me say this year, your integrity is worth more than a few points.

**Make-up Work**

If you are **Absent Excused** on the day of an exam or quiz, you will have 5 school days to make it up during Academic Advising or Office Hours. It is up to you to make arrangements to make up the exam/quiz. After that, a penalty will incurred. Bottom-Line: make up the assessment as soon as possible.

If you are **Absent Unexcused** you may take exams and quizzes. I will grade it and give you feedback. However, because of the Absent Unexcused attendance, the grade recorded will be a zero.

If you are in school on the day of an exam or quiz but will miss AP US History—Unexcused or Excused-- you will have to make arrangements to take it that day.

If you are **Absent Excused** when work was assigned, the days you will have to make up the assignment will be equal to the number of days you missed. After that, the work will be considered late.

**Food and Beverage Policy**

**C**onsistent with school policy, no food or drink (except water) will be allowed in the classroom.

**College Credit**

AP US History is a course for students ready for a college-level challenge, ready for a college-level course. On May 5, 2017, students will take the College Board’s AP US History Exam. A score of a 3, 4, or 5 is considered passing. A passing score translates to college credit.

**Active Brains**

While class activities of any kind are ongoing, students are expected to be attentive to that activity. All students can contribute to the lesson and atmosphere of the classroom and when students “check out” of the class activity they are keeping themselves from learning and diminishing the class atmosphere and the lesson. Please stay on task ☺