

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AMERICAN STUDIES

AP U. S. History (Combo)/English III Honors (Combo)

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2 credits (1/2 credit English reading elective, 1/2 credit English III Honors, and 1 credit Advanced Placement U. S. History) 1 year

Our American culture is based on our traditions, our values, our way of thinking, and our way of life. Experiencing past events through literature, history, art, and music should lead to a greater understanding and appreciation for that heritage. This course offers students the opportunity for building these connections through a chronological study of U. S. history, literature, and culture in an integrated class taught by one member of the Social Studies department and one member of the English department. During the year, students produce college-level essays, document-based responses, and research projects. They also refine critical thinking, speaking, listening, reading and group interactive skills. Emphasis will be placed on preparing for the Advanced Placement U. S. History exam, which allows for university/college credit in most post-secondary programs. The course fulfills the English and history requirements for the junior year and will be taught in a two-hour block.

For AP American Studies, all grades will be combined for AP U. S. History and English III Honors. The active grade book, with all grades combined, will be periods 1 and 5. Contact your counselor for further information regarding these grades on your transcript and weighted transcript.

Your grade for this course will be determined by a combination of the following, each with specific point values:

Daily Participation (10% of Semester Grade)
Mid-Terms (10%) and Semester Exams (20%)
Unit Exams
Quizzes
Essays and Other Writing Modes
Participation in essay conferences
The Sixties Museum

Hot Seat Seminars
Reading, Discussion, Seminar Participation
The Presidents Exam
Cultural Interest Groups (CIGs)
Individual and Group Projects/Presentations
Enrichment Activities
Year-End Project

All required readings for this course can be found on the class's Moodle page:

<http://eschool2.bsd7.org/course/view.php?id=261>

Please share questions or concerns by using the email or phone numbers provided above.

Academic integrity is critical to character development and the educational process. Students found to have engaged in cheating or plagiarism shall be subject to district and school disciplinary policies.
(BHS Handbook).

In this class, you will write for a variety of purposes. We will read and evaluate some of your pieces, while others will simply provide opportunities for you to warm up and/or improve your writing fluency. Make sure that you don't reveal in your writing anything that might embarrass you or others. Should your writing indicate that you or others have been, are, or could be at physical or emotional risk, we are obligated by law to refer you to either a BHS counselor or Child Protective Services to ensure that you and others are healthy and safe. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please ask before your writing is due.

Absences, Tardies, Late Work, and Cell Phones:

- 1) You should strive to attend class every day and complete all work on time.
- 2) You will be considered tardy if you are not in your seat within five seconds of the bell. Because of the large enrollment in this course and the need for minimal disruption, we will consistently record tardies. Let us know in advance if you are facing serious challenges with the five-minute passing period. See BHS Tardy Policy for further information.
- 3) Unless prior arrangements are made with Ms. Tranel and Mr. Strahn, work must be turned in on the due date to receive full credit. ***Late work—excluding tests and quizzes—will be accepted for up to one week's time after the assignment was due and will receive 50% of the grade assigned.***
- 4) Work that is due or missed on the day of an unexcused absence cannot be made up. **NOTE: As per stipulations on the Gold Card Application, Gold Cards cannot be utilized to excuse absences on days when assignments, exams, or presentations are due.**
- 5) Make-up work is your responsibility. We would appreciate a heads-up if you are going to be absent for any length of time. **At the latest, you are expected to contact Mr. Strahn and Ms. Tranel the day you return from an excused or activity absence to determine what work was missed and to establish a schedule for completing missed work (including homework, quizzes, tests, presentations, essays and projects).**
- 6) **IMPORTANT:** You must contact one of us in advance if you are going to be absent during an individual or group presentation. Call or e-mail Ms. Tranel **or** Mr. Strahn and leave a detailed message. Otherwise, there is a strong possibility that you may not be able to receive credit for these activities.
- 7) We expect the hall pass to be used for emergencies only. You have a five-minute break between classes to take care of other needs. Students abusing the hall pass privilege will be denied access to the pass.
- 8) Because cell phones are frequently a distraction, our expectation is that they will not be seen or used (unless part of an approved activity or prior arrangements have been made with one of us). Students disregarding this policy will have their cell phones confiscated and their class participation score impacted. **Please let us know if you need to have access to your phone for medical or family reasons and we will try to be as accommodating as possible.**

If there is no struggle there is no progress.

Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are people who want crops without plowing up the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, and it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle.

-Frederick Douglass (1857)

Dear AP American Studies Student:

Welcome! Thank you for signing up for this challenging and worthwhile class. I am hopeful that it will help to instill in you a lifelong interest in the rich and fascinating story of America's past.

And what about my past? Believe it or not, I'm a BHS graduate from way back in 1983! Ronald Reagan was President, Michael Jackson was on MTV way too much, and mullets were (sadly) quite popular. After high school, I went to MSU, where I received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and, later, a Master of Arts in American History.

Teaching is a great passion of mine and I love working with students. This is my sixteenth year at BHS and my twelfth year team-teaching AP American Studies.

Prior to finding employment here, I worked for nine years as Bozeman's City Historic Preservation Officer. I've also taught history and architecture at MSU. I am the author of books on Montana history and architecture, and I record a weekly Montana history radio piece for KGLT called "The Montana Medicine Show."

In my spare time I enjoy playing music, fly-fishing, and spending time with my family. My wife, Katy Paynich, also teaches English here at BHS. We have a twenty-three-year-old son, Ian, as well as twin boys, Alex and Noah, who will be turning fifteen in November.

This promises to be an exciting and enriching year, and I am very much looking forward to getting to know you. Please let me know how I can make your experience in this course as rewarding as possible.

Derek Strahn

Hello!

I'm 6'1". There, now that I've answered that pressing question I can tell you a few other things about myself. I grew up in Montana, on a ranch north of Billings. I attended a rural, class C school through 8th grade, where basketball was a religion but playing in the band was really cool, too. Since everybody participated in both activities, at halftime we would run up into the bleachers and play "Proud Mary" to pep ourselves up, then hustle back onto the court to play the 2nd half of the game.

I went to high school in Billings, earned a B.A. in English from Notre Dame and an M.A. in English from Middlebury College. I became a teacher by accident, not by design. When I graduated college in 1992 I had no plan for my life but I wanted to live adventurously, to "suck the marrow out of life" as Thoreau would say. I moved to New York City as part of a volunteer teaching program, where I discovered I loved both teaching and urban life. Subsequently I spent four years teaching in Madrid, Spain, and one year working in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for an organization that worked with survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. Later I returned to NYC and worked in human rights for a time before returning to teaching.

When I left Montana in 1988 I had no intention of ever moving back, but eventually I decided wanderlust wasn't really an end in itself so I adjusted my priorities and threw down roots in Bozeman in 2005. My husband teaches anthropology and archaeology at MSU and our two children, Isaac (10) and Elena (7), go to Irving elementary. This is my 24th year of teaching, my 14th at BHS. In my free time I enjoy reading, gardening, playing piano, biking and playing hockey.

Now I am thrilled to embark on yet another adventure with you as we explore American Studies together!

Jennie Tranel