

*Dear next year's APUSH class,*

I have successfully made it through the year in AP U.S. History. At the beginning of the year, I didn't know much about our country's history, especially before European contact and 20th century wars. This class has taught me so much information that I cherish to know. If I had known about Adam Norris review videos and the practice Brinkley quizzes at the beginning of the year it would have really helped in starting off the first quarter with an A.

To do well in this class and secure a five on the APUSH exam in May, I highly recommend reading the textbook! The textbook is a great resource and the only way to get A's on the chapter quizzes every week, which are easy if you read but impossible to do well on if you don't.

In addition, it is important to do the Quia quizzes because it is a great way to boost your grade and learn vocab but you have to do them on your own time and they close after a certain amount of time. To do well in this class the single most important resource is the videos on YouTube that Adam Norris offers. Norris reviews every Brinkley chapter in around 10 minutes and it is great to prepare for chapter quizzes and exams.

Just know that this class is very doable if prepared for correctly and it teaches much about our Nation's history. Preparation is key in this class. If you prepare for essays, quizzes and exams a few days before with the helpful resources, scoring well is no issue. To do well on the essays, Mr. Hansen, the glorious APUSH teacher, gives a set list of essay questions for each of the 9 units with around 5 of the potential essay questions to be chosen on the essay. It may seem hard to be reading a chapter a week and putting time in to study for this class, but not only is it essential to do well, but after a few weeks reading and studying for this class becomes second-nature.

What helped me the most during APUSH was having a study group on Discord known as the "APUSH Scholars." In this group, we all studied for exams the night before and constantly reminded each other about Quia quizzes due and potential pop-quizzes, which are given once every week. I strongly recommend getting a small group of people to study with in order to do well in this class.

Pop-quizzes are based on the reading, so it is very important to read the assigned pages every night in order to get a 100% on the pop-quizzes. Mr. Hansen's website contains many valuable resources such as his APUSH HW Helper which gives a calendar of all the assignments and material for the year.

Finally, it is important to not stress about this class. If you bomb one chapter quiz, it's okay because the lowest quiz score gets dropped each quarter which is a great way to boost your grade. This class is very interesting and it flows together with the major themes. In the end, this class is worth the reward and knowledge and by using the tips provided, getting a 5 on the exam and an A in the class can be done. Good luck!

*From Andrew Atallah*



Greetings,

What I wish I had known at the beginning of the year was that this class would be the hardest history class that I had ever taken. If you thought AP World History was hard, you're in for a real treat with this curriculum. I wish I had known there was no extra credit in this class, so you can't think "Oh, it's late, I'm just gonna turn it in how it is and make up the points later." You can't do that, there is NO EXTRA CREDIT. Turn in all your assignments on time and to the best of your ability. I wish I had known how to properly study for the tests and unit exams. You can't just expect to read the chapter a couple times and be prepared for the test. (Still read the chapter at least twice, though.) You need to take good notes, make flashcards, and take practice test on websites like quizlet.

You're going to have to complete an online multiple choice quiz at home for every chapter we study. Make sure you complete them on time, they aren't accepted late. They are also the easiest points that you can earn in this class, seriously. Another tip: you have to write an extended essay for each unit. You can easily prepare for these because the topics are on his website. Make sure you are familiar with each one because you don't know what you are going to get!

Speaking of essays, for the first couple of DBQs that you write, he gives you the documents and question in advance. Become as educated as possible on the subject and take sufficient notes on the documents. This will save you so much time when you are actually writing the essay and everything is already annotated.

TL;DR: Do the quia essays, take your time when studying, don't turn in anything late, STUDY, STUDY, and when you think you're done studying, study another 20 minutes.

Sincerely, Bryce Barker

Dear APUSH Students of next year,

If I knew what was in store for me this year in APUSH, I don't know if I would've stayed the whole year. However, I'm glad that I eventually decided to stake it out through the year because it truly gives you a feel of what a college course will be like in the future. This class is much more in depth, involved, and focused on details than I ever thought it could be, so much so that it will make your head spin. As long as you stick to the key points that I'll share in the next paragraph, you are set to pass the class at an A-B range, almost guaranteed.

The main key to being successful in this class is being very organized, studying frequently for chapter quizzes, and not turning in anything late. Organization is key for figuring out which events happened where, to who, and the cause of the event occurring. You will have to memorize tons of names, places, vocabulary, and the meaning behind each of those things in order to properly answer SAQ's, DBQ's, and multiple choice questions. If memorization isn't your forte, I would rethink the decision you made about taking this course.

Chapter quizzes will be your saving grace, or your damnation in this class. One occurs almost every week, and since only 2-3 days is ever spent on a chapter in this class, you will have to do some major studying in order to do well on these quizzes. I wish I had taken this advice; I did not study as much as I should of in this class, and it's my first grade I've gotten that is lower than a B for the year! (I got a D and a C, if you are curious). Use your resources for this class to study; Brinkley, Zinn, Mr. Hansen's website, and Quizlet are all excellent ways to get to know the material the best you can.

Lastly, the late policy. When Mr. Hansen says he won't accept late work, HE MEANS IT! Don't make my mistake of forgetting to take Amsco Quizzes, or missing a Chapter Quiz makeup; he will not, under any circumstances, let you recover those grades. The only boost he gives for a quarter is dropping your lowest quiz grade before grades are set. Try your best to be on your work, and if you miss something, just keep going and trek on.

I really do not mean for this to possibly deter you from taking APUSH, but it's best to know what you are diving into before you can no longer have the opportunity to leave. Good luck to you this year!

Best Wishes,  
Maddison Barry~

Dear Future APUSH Student,

APUSH is definitely not the easiest class, but it is not completely impossible to complete successfully (even though sometimes it may seem like it). You have probably heard that this class is difficult, and it is difficult in the sense that time will need to be dedicated to this class. APUSH is the type of class that does require effort, and you will have to study for this class. The best advice is to READ THE BOOK (even though the book is very dense and seems like it goes on forever) and not to wait till the day before the test to read all of it at once. Reading the Brinkley book pages when they are assigned will allow you to understand the notes covered in class way better, as you will have an idea about what the lecture is about. It will be also helpful if you outline the chapters and take notes while reading; it will help you concentrate, and will help you when you study for the exams. Another reason why you should read the book is the Pop Quizzes! Eventhough they may not be worth as much as the other tests, they will be a critical factor in determining your final grade. It is extremely important not to procrastinate in this class. It will save you a lot of stress and make that class more manageable. For the chapter quizzes you should read the Brinkley textbook, as the quizzes are extremely detailed and you will need to know specific details from the chapters. Also looking over the key terms, and studying them will help a lot on the chapter quizzes. The best way to learn all the key terms is to make flashcards, or to use quizlet. On the other hand, the unit exams are less detailed and are more based on the general trends of the time period, and looking over notes and the AMSCO book will help. One of the most helpful resources was the Adam Norris videos; however, don't solely rely these videos for the chapter quizzes, as they don't go that in depth. For the unit exams, make sure to understand the general themes of the chapters, and watching the Adam Norris videos will help you understand the main ideas. Additionally to the exams and quizzes, there will also be essays. To do well on the essays it is important to know the key terms and to understand the overall trends and themes. There are also Adam Norris videos that are divided up by the main time periods and themes that the AP exam tests, so it will be helpful if you watch the videos before the AP exam as a review. Even though there might be days where you don't want to study for this class, it will make it so much easier in the long run if you follow the schedule. Even though this class is difficult, overall it has been a very interesting class, and helpful experience.

GOOD LUCK,

Brinda Bhut (Former APUSH student)

Dear fellow APUSH students,

Many of you have probably heard that APUSH is one of the harder AP classes here at school. However, APUSH is not a hard class if you study, period. I wish I would have had better studying habits before I came into this class as it would have made it easier. The class is relatively simple if you are able to keep up to date on the homework helper and can consistently read the textbook pages when they are do. The questions from the pop quizzes and quizzes are based off of the textbook, and these are the grades that can easily carry your grade or fail your grade. Pop quizzes occur generally once a week and are generally five questions each, they are a hit or miss, you either read the textbook pages listed or you didn't. As there aren't any real homework assignments to carry your grade you need to consistently be doing well on all the quizzes and tests. If you are able to read and prepare yourself then it will be a moderate class. Doing your textbook readings will almost ensure you to get a decent grade on all of the quizzes and tests.

Now for the majority of you here who will not keep up to date and won't do all of the readings every time they are do, you will most likely struggle here and there, however it is very doable, many have taken this class before and passed with minimal work. There are a few ways that can be used to help obtain better scores without putting in all the time to read each and every chapter. First off is to use your resources and outsource for quick and easy information. An example of this that a wide variety of people used this year could be watching YouTube videos (Look up Adam Norris). YouTube videos are easy as you can watch them on your way to school during test/quiz days, or before you go to bed. Most videos are relatively short with an average time of around 20 minutes, however if you are limited on time you can speed up the videos in the options for YouTube. Another thing my friends group and I would do is going over the concept outlines for each period before each essay. Each prompt for the essay is derived from one of these outlines. We used to discuss each one (there is roughly 7 for each period) and have a few people type notes into a google doc so that others can look them back over the morning of the essay. Whenever we studied the essays like this the vast majority of us got relatively high scores.

Another important thing to note is how everything is being graded. Knowing the rubric for the LEQs and DBQs allows you to get easy points. Ensuring you get a contextualization and Thesis point is two free points that you should be able to get for free on almost every essay. Knowing how things are graded better allows you to get as many points with little knowledge. When you are writing the essays in class you will have a rubric, ensure that you are checking and making sure you cover every area to get all the points.

Overall APUSH is a very doable class, despite what very many people have said, you can get by with a decent grade. The pop quizzes and weekly chapter quizzes make

up the bulk of your grade, if you can get by these and do well you will succeed in APUSH.

Good luck fellow scholars, ~Nathan.

Dear Student,

Overall, APUSH was probably one of the hardest classes I have ever took, however it is also one of the classes I had the least amount of work in. There is no homework almost every night besides reading pages for the textbook. This makes the class seem easy but you can't not read one night, because you will get behind on the information you need for the quizzes in class. Something I wish I knew going into the class is to be prepared for the chapter quizzes. Throughout the year my chapter quiz grades slowly improved and became more consistent because I learned what to expect and how to study for them. I think as someone beginning this class you should know to take advantage of every thing with free points, especially the QUIA quizzes and the small amount of homework and charts Mr. Hansen does assign. Also, another thing that would help you in this class is reading the other book you check out, not the big textbook or zinn, the book with the chapter summaries. This book helped me a bunch studying for unit exams and chapter tests because it was more concise and easier to read.

Another thing that is important is to look at the key concepts for each unit and the essay topics before every essay. If you look at these things you will be very prepared for the essays. But the most important thing to include in the essay is evidence, make sure you have evidence and clearly take a position on the essay. In all of the writing you do in the class make sure you can clearly understand the argument you are making, do not be in the middle of the question because then you lose points.

Lastly, the most important thing to do to be successful in the class is to just be there and pay attention. Mr. Hansen goes over everything in class and the power points he uses have really good information that help you do well on the quizzes. Some days you might get distracted but if you focus on the information he gives you it helps tremendously on what you need to know. Overall, this class is an AP class so it is rigorous, however if you give effort and keep your grade up in the class you will be prepared for the AP test at the end of the year. So stick with it!

Best Regards,  
Jackson Campbell  
Period 1

Dear future APUSH students,

So here's a quick recap of what goes down in Mr. Hanses class every day: You walk in, put your phone in the box, and then listen. Listen. Listen. Listen. Occasionally fail a pop quiz and then listen some more. I personally love lecture styles classes where you can take notes to facilitate your life (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!) but its 100% optional and all you have to do is pay attention and you will be 70% of the way done with studying. If you are not a good listener, get out. For the most part you can just read the textbook every night and he will cover everything you read in class the next day, so it's crucial to read so you can be active during discussions in class. I have come to the conclusion, possibly a little too late, that the more active you are in his classroom the better you'll do on his quizzes, tests, and projects. If you do not know something, or do not comprehend why such and such thing happened, just ask! Now, I must clarify, if you did not read at all and have not been paying attention in class, do not ask! I repeat, DO NOT ASK! Because he will ask you questions too and try and find the answer with you, he will not just hand you the answer and give you a pat on the back, you must work for your grade and if you are having troubles, just ask him for help and guidance and I am most definitely sure that he will assist you in any and everything.

One thing that you have to understand is that most of your classmates are taking this class to get some college credit knocked off and to get that 5 on the AP exam (which in my opinion is impossible but doable). By having Mr. Hanses as your teacher and instructor, you will be more than ready to tackle the AP exam like a champ! That last statement is only true because in his class, the quizzes (which by the way are weighted just as heavily as the big exams) are wayyyyyyy harder than the actual exam. You will be prepared, trust me. But it is extremely stressful. It is a lot of information to take in and in such a short period of time too! But by reading the Brinkley book, watching the Adam Norris videos, paying attention and taking notes in class you will be more than prepared to earn at least a 4 on the AP exam in May. If you have a B or higher do not even worry too much about, stress over the AP exam because you will be more than prepared.

If you are worried about your grade in the class. DO. THE. DARN. QUIA. QUIZZES. Got that? Let me just repeat myself really quick, DO THE DARN QUIA QUIZZES!!! Like I really hope you understand how serious I am when I say that if you do not complete the quia quizzes, your grade will suffer. I can verify as I missed all quia quizzes but one during the second quarter and I died, literally and figuratively, I died. Do the quia quizzes.

Thank you and I bid you good luck in your future endeavors,  
*Mauricio Brisotti Dantas*  
*Period 7*  
*APUSH*



Dear Future APUSH Students,

In the beginning of this year, I often thought to myself, "Apush my off a cliff", but by the end of the year, I feel comfortable and knowledgeable about this class. To be successful in this class you actually have to put forth effort. This will be one of your classes with the most work. It is not the hardest class at all, it just takes up a lot of time and effort. You must be self motivated to take this class if you truly want to do well. You can't be forced to read 20 textbook pages a night because you won't enjoy it or comprehend it.

To do well in this class you must make a time each day to just sit down and read that nights pages in the Brinkley book. Every single test question is based off the information in that book, so it is important to read it. It is also very helpful to watch the chapter videos by Adam Brinkley on Youtube. Don't rely on them though because they are just an overview of the chapter and the quizzes are usually very specific.

It is also important to stay on track in this class and not slack off. If you miss a few days in class make sure you are at least doing the reading at home to prepare for upcoming quizzes or tests, because you will not be able to read and comprehend 40 pages in one night.

My last tip is to participate during class. Mr. Hansen's lectures are very helpful and you will learn a lot from them, but also read the book the night before so you know what he is talking about. It is important to raise your hand to ask and answer questions and participate in the class. Also, expect there to be a lot of stress associated with this class. There is not one day this year that I have not thought about upcoming tests or quizzes in the class and it has not stressed me out.

Overall, don't take this class if you don't like history. This year was very interesting and it was my favorite class. Study hard and good luck!

Hello next year APUSH student! I'm William Delgado and this is all the insight I have to offer on APUSH, my worst nightmare. I've always enjoyed history throughout my high school career I got A's in all my honors history classes i've ever had and I liked learning about history, I never enrolled for AP World history so APUSH was completely foreign to me. In the honors history classes I didn't study or read the book a day in my life because I could pay attention to the lecture and memorize what I was told for the tests and it worked out wonderfully. That's exactly what I planned to do for APUSH... boy was that a mistake, apparently only paying attention in class gets you about a 47.52 F. This class is the devil reincarnated into a course, but you can slay the beast if you know what your doing. I was completely defeated after my 2nd F in the 2nd quarter and it was too late to drop out so I ended up getting an F all year round. However I still payed attention and gave tests my all even though I knew it was hopeless. The problem wasnt that I was dense and did not process what I was told in class it's just that the lectures in class make up 30 to 50 percent of the tests. In order to get a good grade you need to read the pages assigned to you every day at the end of the class. Every day he will give you about 7 pages give or take and that's where the another 30 percent of the test are and then there's the vocab. On the website he should provide you with <http://teacherpress.ocps.net/stephenhansen/> there's a brinkley vocab link thats the words you want to study that's the rest of the test grade. If you do all of these things you should end up with a good grade on the tests, I found that out at the end of the year because I was too busy wondering why I couldn't get good grades on the test like I normally do by just memorizing lectures. There's another thing you need to be mindful of and that would be his quia quizzes. I actually did well on the quias all you need to do is look at the amSCO vocab provided on his website and search them all on google. Then study what they are and why they are important than take the quiz and copy/past the words that the question describes, your gonna have to go quickly through the quiz are TIMED. The other important part of his class are the essays. Imma be real here i have absolutely no clue how to write his history essays they go completely over my head and i just write random historical events sorta, kinda relating to the topic. I know how to writes essays fairly well i get 6s on every kind of AP english and comp essay (synthesis, rhetorical analysis and argumentative). It's just you have to write the APUSH essays very specifically and make sure you understand key concepts and themes. Your gonna have to read someone elses letter because i don't really know what to tell you on the essays. In conclusion if your up to the task of slaying APUSH then go for it, just remember that you need need to study, read the pages he gives you and use all the resources he gives you on the website. If you don't know when he's giving a quia he posts all the dates on canvas

### *Letter to Next Year's APUSH Students*

If you're reading this it probably means that you've made it past AP World History/AP Euro & want to try APUSH. Let's point out some mistakes made by a post-APUSH student; these mistakes deal with homework, quizzes, tests, etc. & why it's important to follow this advice.

Read the textbook pages, I can't even begin to explain how much that could help your grade (from an F to a C, at least). Of course, I didn't read, which explains why I failed the first semester of this class. It was only in the third quarter that I started to read the textbook & write down notes/take a summary of each page (make it brief & abbreviate to go faster); this helps as a review for chapter quizzes & unit tests. When you're done reading/writing notes, open a google doc & type down everything written (on the same google doc: add notes from the youtube reviews, vocab from the chapter, chapter review notes [only stuff not already covered], and the Zinn book). Also, chunk the textbook reading by doing around 4-6 pages a night (it goes by quickly if you're focused). Make sure to spend at least 30-45 mins minimum a night doing work for this class, it's worth it if you want to pass.

Quizlet is absolutely necessary for quia quizzes (the textbook doesn't have a glossary); it is recommended that you make vocab cards. Quia quizzes are the backbone of your grade; they're easy A's & provide an extra-cushion in case you've struggled on other assignments. Utilize Mr. Hansen's House of History website; on there you'll find all the amsco vocab terms, study guides (labor-intensive & personally not a fan of them), youtube chapter reviews (take notes on these), chapter reviews (don't rely on these but take notes), etc.

To sum it all up: read the textbook, take notes, make vocab cards, ace the quia quizzes, study before chapter quizzes, set aside 30-45 mins minimum for homework, and don't slack off in the beginning of the year (it only gets harder). I regret not knowing this information before I started this class & I wish I could retake the class now that I do, so follow this advice & don't end the year feeling like this.

Dear Future APUSH Student,

This is a really hard class, it will push you to work harder than you have ever needed too in any other class. History is my favorite subject and it relates to what I want to major in (Political Science), so I was motivated to actually study and do the work that I needed to do to be able to succeed. If you're not motivated to do the work and are planning to do just the bare minimum, just drop out of this class because you will fail. I ended up with a high B in the class and I could have gotten an A easily if I just did a few things differently. Attendance is a big part to keeping up in this class (my poor attendance is what hindered me from receiving an A) so try not to miss this class. To study read the entire Brinkley chapter early in the week or the weekend before, as this will give you time not only to read the chapter but also help you better understand the material because you will know the information from the chapter when Mr.Hansen goes over it in class. Then make flashcards with both the Brinkley key terms and the AMSCO key terms and use those to study over the week, this helps a lot because you memorize specific evidence that you can use in your written assignments and it helps you get all the fill in the blank answer questions correct on the quizzes. Also, Adam Norris videos help tremendously as they go over the most important topics in the chapters. I would watch the specific chapter video right after I read the chapter and then the morning of the chapter quiz. Watching the morning of the quiz helped a lot because it would just refresh my memory of the chapter. Do online Brinkley/Amsco quizzes that are online the night they are assigned. Do not wait to do them on the last night they are open because you will forget and Hansen

will not let you retake them. Also, talk to Mr.Hansen about golf as it might make him find you more tolerable. Mr.Hansen has been an amazing teacher and has been one of my favorite teachers ever. If you put in the work and actually try in this class he will help you succeed. Good luck!!

Sincerely,

Kira Diehl

Dear APUSH Students,

Good luck this year, you will be fine. What I wish I knew before I started this class is that when you have reading for homework, you have to do it if you want to be successful. Most people will see that there is no written assignment for homework, and think that there is no homework, but the reading is the only way to do well in this class. You will have pop quizzes on your reading, and if you don't do it you will get lost in class pretty easily. If you stay on top of your work and study, you will do fine on the quizzes, which will really help you keep a good grade. You don't have homework assignments to boost your grade up like you do in a lot of classes, and the quizzes are 60% of your grade, so make sure you are prepared for each quiz. This entire year has been based around the APUSH themes and learning objectives, and if I could go back I would definitely have learned and studied those earlier because they will help you a lot throughout the year. Every assessment in the class has questions that are tied to the thematic learning objectives, and if you understand them and how they work, they will make your life much easier. As well as chapter quizzes in class, you will also be required to take quia quizzes at home on your computer. These are shorter quizzes that are typically timed at either five or ten minutes, and they can help give your grade a small boost if you need it. Always stay on top of the due dates for these quizzes because there is normally a two or three day window to take them, and you will not always be reminded of them. If you miss the quiz, it will go in as a zero and you can't change it, and since it is in the quiz category, it will hurt your grade, especially if you miss multiple. What helped me a lot this year is watching the APUSH review youtube videos on Mr. Hansen's website before each quiz. This isn't a substitute for reading, but if you read the chapter, the video will give you a nice summary of important information. They are typically fifteen to twenty minutes, so they are very easy to watch before the quizzes. As far as writing goes in the class, you will have DBQ's, LEQ's, and SAQ's. The DBQ and the LEQ are much longer, and the key to writing these is to get a good intro that gives you a few points as well as setting up a good essay. The SAQ's are shorter, typically only a few sentences per question, and you just need to make sure you include specific evidence in these. You will also take multiple choice tests on each unit, and the key to these is to make sure you read for each chapter quiz and are prepared for each chapter in the unit. As long as you are willing to put in effort and read, you will do fine in this class and you will learn a lot!

Adam Eldredge

Dear APUSH Student,

I'm not going to beat around the bush. This class is the hardest class I have ever taken. It tries your life in so many ways that you will literally feel like collapsing after your APUSH exam in gratitude. Some things I wished I knew when I joined this class was...

There is no busy work in this class. One of the amazing things about AP world was the fact that it gave boatloads of busy work to balloon your grade. HW, extra credit, binder checks, participation, and etc. APUSH does not do this. The grades that go in are quizzes, tests, the occasional difficult assignment, and online vocabulary quizzes (with a deadline and 0 makeups) so keeping your grade at an A is IMPOSSIBLE. I know you are young and naive and think you could probably pull out of this year with a 95 average in APUSH, but you probably won't. It is HARD. But at the same time it's worth it. After scaring you slightly, the good things about the class are that Mr. Hansen is amazing. He is the smartest guy you will ever meet. He knows so much about American history it's crazy. There is no one better to teach this class. Pay attention to him during lectures. He goes into super interesting topics and it lets you know more about the topic than just what the book says. It is the most interesting class I have ever taken because of the information about the country we live in and even some of the things that our grandparents and parents went through.

Some rapid fire tips would be:

- Pay attention - it helps immensely to just listen to his lectures. They're very informative and often very interesting.
- Read your textbook (no matter how long it might seem) - Every test, every quiz has information directly from the textbook and no other sources, it is crucial to do the assigned reading or at least skim. The other 2 books, while do not tell Mr. Hansen - I didn't really touch all year. Brinkley is important though.
- NEVER MISS A QUIA QUIZ - The quia quizzes I found to be the most difficult to keep up with. Keep reading when they are due and plan accordingly. They can tank your grade if you miss one.
- Read when everything is due (He does not take late work no matter the excuse) - I know high school students are super good at excuses, but when it comes to late work in his class nothing will work. He will not show mercy. You will get a 0 so do it on time.
- Do not have a mental breakdown everything's gonna be alright - No matter how bad the class gets, you have a class after this. You will be fine. It can try you at times but there's always another grade going in or another quarter. Do not worry if you get a 50 percent on your first quiz. It happens. It WILL happen.
- read your rubrics for LEQs and DBQs- The standards change from AP World to APUSH so the rubrics will be slightly different. Mrs Sanders and Velez look for different kinds of things when grading essays than Mr. Hansen. Pay attention and do not forget basic writing skills
- Do not miss assessments (20 percent penalty unless excused) - we all know attendance is awful. Just show up for the tests unless you're on fire or something.

Sincerely,

Jay Ellspermann - Jay Ellspermann

Dear Masochistic Youths,

You're probably not going to get an A in this class, not without giving up your life outside of school. That doesn't mean you shouldn't aim for an A though, just that if you aim for an A you'll probably still get a B, and that's okay! APUSH is still a class worth taking, you'll learn a lot and maybe even enjoy it if you like history. There's still a lot the curriculum doesn't cover, especially in the realm of 20th century CIA affairs and government spying. Coverage of the Cuban Missile Crisis is also simplified and one sided to say the least. If you want to learn a more complete history of our country, I suggest you read up on Operation Condor, MKUltra, COINTELPRO, the Kennedy tapes, Con Dao prison (and others) in Vietnam, perhaps some more detailed histories of our coup in Iran and later the Iran-Contra affair, and if all this really interests you, I'd read up on the life (and death) of Che Guevara. Not only are these fascinating to learn about, but they entirely redefine the ideological battle of the Cold War from the simplified, black and white, good vs evil fight between totalitarianism and democracy, to the complex and multifaceted race of two totalitarian world superpowers to exercise control over the global south in order to perpetuate their fundamentally opposed economic systems. They'll also give you a lot to write about on essays.

If those aren't your cup of tea, there's still lots of American history you can learn outside of class that'll help you out as well. As a general rule, the more outside information you have, the better off you'll be on your exams. So find an area of our country's history that interests you! Some people watch Hamilton for example, but please don't be like those people.

My last piece of advice? Take deadlines seriously. Write them down. Put them on your calendar. Tattoo them onto your stomach. Do whatever works for you, but don't let them pass by because Mr. Hansen isn't joking when he says he doesn't take late work. He absolutely doesn't. Miss your chance to makeup a test? Too bad. He will fail you on it and then laugh at your pain. In all honesty the content of this class is nowhere near as hard as people make it out to be, especially if you're familiar with the types of essays and SAQs because you're coming from AP World (I didn't have that luxury). The class is just made exponentially harder because Hansen doesn't take late work, so don't mess around with that. Even so, it's still an easy class to get a B in, I missed a 100 point test and still had a B for that quarter and all the rest of them, so don't stress yourself out because of the hype.

-Cain



Dear next year's APUSH students,

Welcome to what people say is the hardest class you can take. Honestly if you put in the effort and do your work the class isn't so bad. I made the mistake of not giving the class my all and my grade heavily reflects on it, so I advise whomever reads this to not follow my mistakes. Some of the things that you could do to help preserve your grade are things such as keeping up with the APUSH website using resources such as the Homework helper. As with most other classes the main attribute to your success is keeping on top of things, staying ahead, and not getting behind. Always do your homework as soon as you get it and don't wait until the last day to start your projects. As for studying, you should pace yourself and always read the books before you end up failing a pop quiz. And don't be afraid to make a study group with your classmates as it may be beneficial. Don't exclude outside sources too as there are many videos out there which can be very helpful but don't try to only watch the videos as they are best for review. Also don't just learn and forget the knowledge after the chapter quizzes because you will need them on unit exams and the final APUSH exam. If you want to do well and prosper in this class, you can expect to do at least an hour of work/study every day.

Some helpful tips:

- Check the websites frequently in case you forget
- Do your homework and projects sooner than later
- Read the book when you're told to read it
- Use outside info as review

And most important of all: Don't forget every Friday is golf day!



Dear unfortunate student,

By now you have most likely taken AP Human and AP World. So. Did. I. They were both easy A's and I got 5's on both exams. APUSH is not like that. You WILL struggle.

The exam itself is easy, as are the practice exams and unit exams. What will make this class difficult, however, is that these unit exams are not a major portion of your grade. The quizzes you will be given nearly every week will kill your grade. These quizzes are sixty percent of your grade. To succeed in these quizzes read everything you've been given. Twice. You must, also, read all of this material according to the schedule you will be given as there are random pop-quizzes every week. These differ according to class period.

DBQs, FRQs, and LEQs aren't that bad. Once you get used to the format they tend to be fairly easy as long as you know vocabulary.

Quia quizzes will, also, be given nearly every week. These do not count for much but add up when you miss them. The dates of these quizzes may change, so keep up to date on that and finish them ahead of time to ensure you don't miss them.

You will have two main projects. One will come just before your AP Exam and the other just after. The first project is absolute death. It tends to be fifty slides on thematic objectives from throughout the year and you have to work with two to three other people. The second project is actually pretty fun and not too hard though.

In class is mostly a lecture format with power points. This tends to be very good with interesting class debates and conversations - unless you're in the gilded age with trusts and lame presidents. There, also, tends to be cool documentary videos to go with the lesson.

What you have to look forward to are golf days. Ten minutes before before class is over on Fridays, if you have seventh period, you get to line up by the door to leave. Happy golf day.

Hope you don't die,

Rachel Freeman

Salutations You Poor Unfortunate Souls,

Oh golly, you guys are in for some fun. Don't blame anyone but yourself for this class, because you signed up for it, and you're going to pay in blood, sweat, and tears. Just kidding, you guys will be fine, but take this stuff seriously. This is a great class, Mr. Hansen is flipping awesome despite his devilishly first impressions (good luck) but use your resources! I'm serious here. Many kids have awful looking grades and simply don't learn because they're not up to the task, and they don't do what they need to do in order to succeed. If you really want to pass this class and not slaughter your GPA, you're going to do what it takes in order to take that A, and strive for the 5 on the APUSH exam. Trust me, by the end of this year you are going to hate the word Zinn, and despise the word Brinkley. Unless you're like me and love to read history and soak up this info, you're still not going to like these guys because of the pain they put you through. But when all others say NOOOO, read read and then read some more. 60% of the grade you get in this class is from quizzes that come straight out of the textbook. Like boom! Don't get lazy like I did throughout the year and not read that thing. You are going to want to push that book into the deepest darkest recesses of your closet by the end of this year, but don't. Read. Everything you need to know for this class is in that textbook.

But that textbook comes second to nothing but Mr. Hansen's Wonderful House of History. Who knew you could hold a library of information on American History in the palm of your hands, placed there by your very own history teacher? (Professor, sorry) Please use his website, it will make your lives so much easier. From the most odd primary and secondary sources available to simple essay, DBQ, and SAQ writing tips all the way to links to even more vast oceans of information, everything you will ever need for APUSH is on that website.

Oh, and don't expect to be given any slack in this class. Many people do ridiculous things in order to make other people treat them like adults, so act like one. Mr. Hansen will treat you like one and expect you to act like a young adult without need for a hand to cross the street. You will learn to respect him for this, even though you will beg and beg for extra credit opportunities. Don't miss assignments and don't miss Quia quizzes. If you are .1 percent away from the next letter grade and have a missing assignment, no matter how much you plead and grovel and beg, you will keep that .1 below.

Fear not, for I have hated APUSH before you, and now you shall come to know my pain. And hey, you get one heck of a teacher to teach you how to enjoy that pain and take it with a

smile. Don't worry about this next course, hopefully whatever classes you have taken beforehand have prepared you for this class. And if you are new to AP courses, that's totally cool! I am too! I hate essays more than any of you, I have a head injury that prevented me from reading just like many of you aren't going to follow my advice and read, and I am completely new to the world of AP. I'd like to think I've done just fine with what I've been given, and if anything, hopefully some of you guys will find faith in the days ahead as your mortal bodies weaken and bend before the will of American History.

Dear Future Student,

As you enter a new stage in your high school career you will recognize that your education and the standards that others hold you to increase significantly. With this information in mind, I advise you to take this as a chance to increase your knowledge and education and use it as an opportunity. Whether you choose to take this class or not, what you learn in school will help you in many ways in the future. With that in mind, AP US History, or APUSH, is a stimulating course that will create a path to new skills and understanding.

For many years, APUSH has had an unfortunate reputation. I am here to inform you that the reputation lives on. However, looking back on the year, I realize that the class has helped me to prepare for college more than possibly any other at school. As you take this step into APUSH, it is imperative that you know a few things.

There are several things that are vital to understanding the class better. As an incoming junior, I wish I would've known about taking better notes and how easy it is to get behind. The reading is really not that bad, but if you happen to miss a day or two, realize that it is very important that you catch up immediately. Also, while you complete your reading, it is important to make sure you comprehend what is happening. Another thing that I wish I would've known is that not everyone needs to take the same type of notes. During the first semester I spent a long time taking notes in my textbook and on my laptop when in reality it wasn't necessary for me to understand the information. As it turns out, it may be easier for you to do the readings and listen in class while taking less notes than you expect. The point is that you should try and find what's best for your understanding. It can save you a lot of valuable time.

With that being said, here are some tips that may help you in the future. This class consists of several quizzes that you are required to take outside of class. From personal experience, I can almost guarantee that you will probably forget to do one of these Quia quizzes. It is important that you try to keep up with these in some way such as a calendar, as some will be worth more than others and they can really be a good boost to your grade. Even if you do miss one, it's going to be okay as long as you keep up with it. The most major part of the class is definitely based on doing the readings. Mr. Hansen will have pop quizzes during the week that are based on the readings. Some will be easy and some will be hard but I can guarantee that they will all be very specific. Eventually you'll be able to figure out when some will take place but it is important that you know the material in some way because the pop quizzes will often times make or break your grade. Another key tip is to write down the informational charts that Mr. Hansen writes on the board in class. For some of you it may not seem helpful but often times they make studying for essays easier because they will most likely match with the unit essay prompts. Finally, it is important for you to know the best ways for you to study. Unfortunately, it took me three quarters to figure out that Quizlet helped me significantly on the quizzes and that rereading the chapter the night before is very beneficial. I also recommend that you use the Adam Norris review website as he gives a very informative video review on the chapter.

In conclusion, this class is very manageable and helpful as long as you keep up with assignments, study in a way that's helpful, and do the reading. This class will give you as much as you give it so do your best. There will be times where the reading may be overwhelming or you don't feel like doing the work but push yourself. Mr. Hansen is a very good teacher and will prepare you for the AP Exam. I recommend you listen to what he says because he knows what he is talking about. Take advantage of your opportunities and try to enjoy the class, it places you in an environment not many students have and provides you with a plethora of knowledge that helps you in many ways.

Best of luck,

Danielle Ghiden

Alexandria Graham  
P. 7  
May 18, 2018

Alright, here it is. The page that Mr. Hansen has suggested for you to explore and read past students letters for advice. If you're reading this, please continue and ACTUALLY follow the advice. If you don't you will greatly regret it. I can tell you I did not go onto this page or read a single letter once. Honestly, it is simple. Mr. Hansen is a great teacher, and if you listen to him in class and do the work on time or early, you can pass. It is possible. You also NEED to read the damn textbook pages. If you're anything like me, you might consider opening the books once or twice a semester.... Big mistake. Please, just do you're very best. Read the chapters every night, do the quizzes, study, study in advance, do not miss due dates, and set reminders. Do ALL of that, i can guarantee you a pass. I did not do that, and I'm now terrified I am failing, but by reading this you're already doing better than me. Just keep on going, do not lose that beginning of the year motivation. If you signed up for this class, you may or may not have any idea what you are getting into. Please just take advantage of such a great class and teacher, and do your freaking work.

Now to the student reading this, if you read the entire thing or not is entirely up to you, but I have bluntly flat out told you what to do. Please follow this list, as the class is fantastic and though its hard and can be known as one of the hardest AP classes offered, it can be passed with a good grade. Just put in the work and try to enjoy the history. :)

#### THE LIST TO FOLLOW

1. READ, every. Single. Night. Or every other. But please do it.
2. Study in advance
3. Read the study guides
4. Read the essay prompts and do practices before the actual essay, whether it is dbq, saq, laq, etc.
5. Take notes, I said I would do it but never did. Either in class or while reading
6. Read all the textbooks
7. Review the back of the book to review and answer question

~ Alexandria Graham, P7, former APUSH student.

Dear Future APUSH Students,

People have probably told you that APUSH is the hardest class at Winter Park. In some ways, they're right. This is a really hard class if you don't try or don't study. Mr. Hansen is a hard teacher who expects a lot out of his students, but he is also one of the best teachers I have ever had. I have learned so much throughout this class and I have realized that I know a lot more about American history than most of my friends who took American History Honors. I would totally recommend taking this class if you are a good student who cares about what they're learning, but if you're not, there are some ways to help you pass this class without working insanely hard.

Mr. Hansen assigns homework almost every night. Whether it's reading out of the textbook, studying for the next chapter quiz, or reading online history documents, you will most likely have APUSH homework all the time. If you already have a heavy course load for your junior year, you need to be able to prioritize your time. You also need to be able to balance your extracurricular activities as well. If you have practice after school or at night, make sure you set aside time to read or do whatever homework you have.

Every week in this class, you will most likely have a pop quiz on the reading from the night before. These pop quizzes will kill your grade if you do bad on them because they pile up. If you don't have time to read the night before, it's alright. But you still need to make sure you know the material, so try to find a Brinkley chapter outline online and learn the specifics of what's happening in the time period. If you didn't have time to study or read and you have APUSH later in the day, use your free time during the school day to study for APUSH. You can bring your AMSCO book to school and study during lunch for a chapter quiz. But don't rely on studying during the school day, try your hardest to do your homework at home.

Don't forget to do the quia quizzes!! It is such an easy grade and Mr. Hansen gives you plenty of time to complete them. The most important quia's are the Brinkley online chapter quizzes, so make sure you always do those. Always write them in your planner so you don't forget.

Also, I completely recommend watching the Adam Norris videos on the APUSH website. They are super helpful to review for all the chapter quizzes, but don't rely on them for all the little details. Because I didn't have enough time to read a lot of the chapters from the textbook, I watched all the Adam Norris videos and wrote down everything that he said. But you should still try to read some of the book.

Make sure you do everything that Mr. Hansen is going to grade, because if you are on the bubble between letter grades at the end of the quarter or year, Mr. Hansen will not bump up your grade if you have any missing assignments.

Don't stress about this class even though it's really hard. If you do all the work and try at least a little bit, you will be fine. You most likely won't get an A, but good luck though!

~Emily Hale

Dear kids who are about to take this class,

To succeed, APUSH requires a lot of time and effort. A LOT of time and effort. The material itself is not hard, it's easier than AP World. However the reading quizzes are. Surprise! You also get pop quizzes **every** week! So make sure you prepare throughout the week and not just the night before the test because this pop quiz will get you.

There is basically no busy work or classwork at all, just LEQs every unit, SAQs occasionally, and DBQs in 3rd quarter. You also get online vocab quizzes (which is probably the only 100% I've ever gotten in this class.) It's not a whole bunch of random worksheets, so you need to be able to force yourself to study and pay attention.

Make sure you **actually** read the book, as the quizzes are based on proper nouns, names of events/titles, and details inside the text. The Brinkley textbook is your BIBLE. The book is extremely important to get an A in the class. Another good thing to do is make a quizlet on the vocab words each chapter. A lot of the fill in the blanks come from these vocab words. Your SECOND BIBLE is the Adam Norris videos. Every night before the quiz, look up a Brinkley review video on that chapter. Adam Norris effectively covers most of the detail needed to pass the quiz,

As a heads up, almost no one gets an A in this class. Only a select few who are truly devoted and spend most of their time on APUSH actually achieve this. This class may be hard and overbearing, but it's possible.

However if you're looking for an easy A, this class is not for you. :)

from,

Anya Legaspi

a fellow apush ~~sufferer~~ student who still managed to slide through with a low B

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Dear Apush Students

I'm going to be brutally and shamefully honest. I struggled in this class. I did not succeed. I had my downfall. That was because I failed to heed the warnings and advice of the Apush students before me. I cannot emphasize any of these tips enough to you. This class will NOT be easy. You will write essays, you will read. A lot.

No, I'm not trying to scare you out of the class or terrifying you into going to honors. Even if you do move to honors, don't be ashamed of it. It's better than failing AP. I wish I did, and even though I didn't do my best in this particular class, I will never forget the history and memories from second period and all the fun facts and history lessons Hansen gave. He truly is a great teacher that enjoys what he does, so pay attention in class. Take notes on your laptop or notebook as he speaks, a lot of it will definitely be on your quizzes! That's something I started doing and it helped me incredibly. However taking notes in class doesn't make up for not doing the reading.

DO THE READING. Yes, I know how long it can take and how many pages there are and how boring or frustrating it can get. I know this all too well. Nevertheless, doing the reading and taking notes will greatly improve your scores and grade. It's worth it. The videos you find online are not even nearly close to helpful as the reading. And they usually don't give you the information you need.

DO THE QUIA QUIZZES. Now anyone who knows me is familiar with my horrendous memory, aka I never did the quizzes. Let me tell you, my grade never forgave me for it. Do them. Easy 100% and will give a boost to your grade so you have a safe space to fall back on if you fail a quiz or even a test. Take your time and don't procrastinate them till the night they're due. Also DON'T PROCRASTINATE PRINTING THE QUIZ SHEETS ETC.

Lastly, Some tips and hints to be successful:

- ❖ DO THE QUIA QUIZZES.
- ❖ DO THE READING.
- ❖ Try your best and help each other out. (Make friends! Especially when you forget to print out a quiz or saq sheet, they'll have your back).
- ❖ Listen to Hansen and take notes in class.
- ❖ Don't stress yourself out too much, it's one class in your high school career.
- ❖ Ask for help when you need it. (I really wish I did this.)
- ❖ DON'T SKIP THIS CLASS.
- ❖ Print out your quiz and SAQ sheets ahead of time.

I hope this letter helps you guys out, and I hope you listen to my advice... Unlike what I did my year of Apush. I was not the best student but I tried and I learned from my mistakes and I hope you do too. Don't compare yourself to other students, but feel free to use their study tricks or ask them for help. Keep a good attitude and know that even if you're struggling, Hansen will treat you no different and you'll still make tons of memories in this class. I sometimes wish I took honors but I wouldn't have learned my lesson or made some of the memories I did. If you see me around or on social media and need someone to say "YOU CAN PASS THE FINAL EXAM" feel free to message me and I'll pump you up. You'll do fine, I hope you enjoy your school year and I'll always be mentally supporting you! (PS. Wish Mr. Hansen Happy Golf Day every Friday)

Sincerely,  
Hannah Harrison

Dear APUSH students

Andy He  
P.1

After all of the suffers I've been through I'm here to tell you how to survive in this class. Before going over helpful tips in this class, you should already know that APUSH is a tough class. It is expected for you to keep up with the readings every night and stay on top of all classworks and projects. When I entered this class on the first day of school, I thought it would be an easy day for that day, but it was different from what I thought. On the first day of school, we went to the book room to get our textbook, and the homework is already posted on the whiteboard. I thought most of the students were just like me, not reading it and thought it shouldn't be like this. I turned to be wrong, we have readings almost every night. I wish I knew that taking this class required you to have a mindset that is prepared to do a lot of readings. Once you survived the first month you will see that everything is kind of repetitive, every night expect to read about fifteen pages.

There are couple things to inform you before you enter this class. Although we have readings, the reading itself does not worth any grade. The way Mr. Hanson grades you is by how much you learned, and that's based on how well you do on the quizzes and tests. Usually, we spent 2 nights for reading the chapter and 1 night for review and the next day is the test, and it is very repetitive. Therefore, about four days per test, and continues for about three quarters. In order for Mr. Hanson to check if you read the book, he does pop quiz every week. The pop quiz added together for a quarter is about one chapter quiz grade, and it is worth a lot. Another big problems for me is the last week before the quarter ends. Usually during that week we have to take about 3 exams in that class, a leq, unit test, and a chapter test. Plus other class' exams, it is necessary to stay on top of the work during that week.

Even though APUSH is a hard class, there are many tips I will provide to help you to become succeed in that class. For the chapter quiz, besides reading, you should watch Adam Norris' APUSH chapter review videos, it is strongly recommended for you to watch those videos but keep in mind that watching video alone will not help you pass the chapter quiz. You should also take note while reading, the quiz is mostly about details in the reading. Also, there are another thing to keep in mind, the amsco chapter quiz. Amso quiz should be a easy free A as long you remember to do it, the way I did the quiz is by finding a quizlet with the vocabs on it.

Overall, the class is reading intensive, but is doable. If you're willing to spent about 1-2 hours every night on reading, you should be fine, but if you're behind, you have to catch up with the works. The actual AP test is not that bad because Mr. Hanson had prepared you very well. To summarize tips that would help you to become success in APUSH, I will list so helpful resource for you to be succeed:

1. Quizlet for amsco and chapter quiz is helpful, so please use it.
2. Keep up with reading please
3. Adam Norris has a lot of helpful videos to summarize the chapter, but watching video alone will not help you pass the test.
4. There's a helpful link called hisnotes, it has notes from other people that gives you notes on the chapter, I suggest you to use it to study for the quiz.

5. Another helpful way to study is at the end of the chapter, it has vocabs listed, I usually went back to the given page and scan over the information on that page, usually I found couple questions on the test is near there.

Dear Fellow APUSH Nerds,

One common misconception of APUSH is that it is virtually impossible, but I would have to disagree. Although APUSH is definitely not for the faint of heart, it is doable. For those in APW, the class is essentially the same but without the massive homework/busy-work assignments that every single Valez & Sanders student is doing on Sunday night, which is obviously extremely convenient. On the flipside, you lose out on a massive grade booster in terms of the homework completion grades which you will have to compensate for in chapter quizzes and unit exams moving me to my next idea. Yes, reading is extremely important to do well on these assignments, but you can certainly get away with not reading the chapters. In order to compensate, what I found was most useful and effective was to create a group of like-minded APUSH students that you should study with before each chapter quiz. By study, I mean complete online quizzes, discuss key concepts, and review chapter outlines. It is imperative that you do as best as possible on the chapter quizzes as they are the largest piece of your grade, 60% to be exact.... :-). Although Mr. Hansen wouldn't encourage this, another way to avoid the massive burden of reading every night is to watch the most helpful man on the planet, Adam Norris. Mr. Norris provides complete APUSH chapter reviews that focus on the main relevant details within a chapter. However, it is still a necessity to READ. The majority of questions come straight out of the textbook and will be pulled from obscure, irrelevant paragraphs on some page that nobody was actually paying attention to while reading. I want to warn you initially however to not be discouraged by poor quiz grade scores at the beginning of the year. You need to find a rhythm of preparedness that works for you and the quiz scores will fall in line. I began the year getting 70s on my first quizzes and by the third and fourth quiz, I was able to get above a 90% for the rest of my quizzes the entire year. Remember, reading is still vital as Mr. Hansen tends to give at least 1 pop quiz a week, which are also weighed for 60% of your grade. Anyways, I strongly encourage you not drop out and stick with it as it will leave you with a fulfilling reward, a passing score on the APUSH exam.

From one APUSH scholar to another,

Will Hilal

Dear APUSH Students,

I hope you are ready for a long, hard year of United States History. Over the course of the year, you will learn practically everything you will ever need to know about the United States and what shaped it into the nation we are currently living in. Make sure you understand that this class is not an easy class and you need to be prepared to put in lots of hard work and spend a lot of time learning in order to be successful in this class. I know you may be thinking that you are not going to be able to pass this class or you do not want to take this class because it is “too hard”, but don't worry, you can pass this class and the AP test at the end of the year.

One thing I wish I knew at the beginning of the year was that you need to read and study each night. If Mr. Hansen assigns you book pages to read, read them because if you don't, you are only hurting your own grade. In this class, you must be self-motivated to do the work and read on your own or you will not do well on the assessments. Be ready for pop quizzes on the textbook every week, countless chapter quizzes, and lots and lots of writing.

Make sure you are taking advantage of all the resources on Mr. Hansen's website because they are there to help you be a successful student in this class. One thing that proved to be very helpful for me in this class was using the Adam Norris review videos and the practice chapter quizzes as a tool to study. Both of these give you a very good summary of the chapter and what you are learning, and will also show you what you need to go back and study. Although these tools are helpful, do not think you will get a good grade on the quizzes just by watching the Adam Norris or skimming the study guides. It is imperative that you actually read the textbook and pay attention in class to be fully prepared for the assessments. One way I helped stay focused in class was by taking very short notes during his lectures and writing down key points that he may have stressed from his powerpoints. These notes not only help you stay engaged in class, but also are a great tool to use for studying. One of the most important things you need to know is that you **MUST** take the quia quizzes. These quizzes are not only great ways to review, but they are easy A's that you can take to help boost your grade and trust me, you will want all the points you can get. If you don't take the quia quizzes, they small 10 point assignments will all add up at the end of every quarter and will harm your grade when they should have helped it.

Something else I wish someone told me at the beginning of the year was to not worry and stress about this class too much. I know it can be intimidating walking into this class in the beginning of the year especially with it being notoriously hard, but you are capable of doing well in this class. Good luck and you have got this!

Sincerely,  
Maddie Hurley

Dear APUSH Students,

I hope you are ready for a long, hard year of United States History. Over the course of the year, you will learn practically everything you will ever need to know about the United States and what shaped it into the nation we are currently living in. Make sure you understand that this class is not an easy class and you need to be prepared to put in lots of hard work and spend a lot of time learning in order to be successful in this class. I know you may be thinking that you are not going to be able to pass this class or you do not want to take this class because it is “too hard”, but don't worry, you can pass this class and the AP test at the end of the year.

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Sincerely,  
Maddie Hurley

Dear Next Year APUSH Students,

Contrary to the popular belief APUSH is not that bad of a class, but it is challenging. If you believe that you are up to the challenge of taking this class, be ready to work. When I walked in to this class on the first day I was assigned almost all of chapter one to read. Almost everyday there will be homework of either reading or answering questions on a video. Also after the AP exam, you will continue to do work. Projects and classwork will still be done all the way up until the last day of school.

Now if you wish to learn the concept without reading all the pages assigned, which means you would ultimately get screwed over by pop quizzes, I would suggest paying close attention to what Mr. Hansen talks about in class. He has to teach the same class I believe three times a day, so it would be beneficial to him that he would only explain what he needed to and not get bogged down by minutiae. Another thing I used to understand the material without reading the book was study groups. Every night before a test, a group of APUSH students would review the chapter by taking the practice tests and discussing the themes and concepts. An option as a last resort would be to watch the chapter reviews by Adam Norris. This guy does not go in depth about the chapter at all. He only summarizes important people, events, and policies. Watching these videos only helped my brain remember what I read about in the chapter. Also Mr. Hansen quizzes focuses on not only important topics in the chapter but mostly on the unimportant topics, which means you will get screwed by the tests.

Mr. Hansen has his own website where he puts lots of information to help students. USE IT EXTENSIVELY. He gives you study guides for the unit essays, powerpoints to go over, and much more. If you want to be successful, you will go through his website and favorite every page that you believe will be useful on your journey through the hardships of this class.

-Dylan Jean-Baptiste

Dear kids who are about to take this class,

To succeed, APUSH requires a lot of time and effort. A LOT of time and effort. The material itself is not hard, it's easier than AP World. However the reading quizzes are. Surprise! You also get pop quizzes **every** week! So make sure you prepare throughout the week and not just the night before the test because this pop quiz will get you.

There is basically no busy work or classwork at all, just LEQs every unit, SAQs occasionally, and DBQs in 3rd quarter. You also get online vocab quizzes (which is probably the only 100% I've ever gotten in this class.) It's not a whole bunch of random worksheets, so you need to be able to force yourself to study and pay attention.

Make sure you **actually** read the book, as the quizzes are based on proper nouns, names of events/titles, and details inside the text. The Brinkley textbook is your BIBLE. The book is extremely important to get an A in the class. Another good thing to do is make a quizlet on the vocab words each chapter. A lot of the fill in the blanks come from these vocab words. Your **SECOND BIBLE** is the Adam Norris videos. Every night before the quiz, look up a Brinkley review video on that chapter. Adam Norris effectively covers most of the detail needed to pass the quiz,

As a heads up, almost no one gets an A in this class. Only a select few who are truly devoted and spend most of their time on APUSH actually achieve this. This class may be hard and overbearing, but it's possible.

However if you're looking for an easy A, this class is not for you. :)

from,

Anya Legaspi

a fellow apush ~~sufferer~~ student who still managed to slide through with a low B

Hey APUSH victim,

Just by signing up for this course, you're showing colleges that you're willing to take up a challenge. Not gonna lie, this course was probably 90% of the reason why I was so stressed out throughout my entire junior year. This course is NOT easy and you won't get by just by reading summaries and watching Adam Norris videos. Definitely expect a low score on your first chapter quiz, but do not worry! This will (hopefully) be your lowest chapter quiz score all year. If you're aiming for an A or a B, you will definitely have to read the gigantic Brinkley textbook!! And make sure to do the assigned reading homework every night because Mr. Hansen loves to give pop quizzes! But either way, you'll need to read the textbook because the chapter quizzes ask very specific, detailed questions. Another helpful thing to do to prepare for the chapter quizzes is by going over the Brinkley and Amsco vocabulary terms. 75% of the chapter quiz will be multiple choice and 25% of it is fill-in-the-blank. He'll give you a word bank, so by knowing what the vocabulary words mean will definitely help a lot! To review, and only to review the entire chapter, I'd recommend looking up chapter outlines. Don't let these outlines replace the actual chapter in the textbook. It's not detailed enough!!! Another good source to use to review the chapter is the powerpoints that are posted on Canvas. There'll be one or two long powerpoints that consists of key events and significant historical figures that'll be necessary to know for the test. You can also take the practice tests on the McGraw Hill site (link is in Mr. Hansen's website). These questions can be used to quiz you on how much you know and tell you what else you have to work on. Honestly, if you keep on studying the same material through different sources, you'll start memorizing it eventually because you're just constantly being exposed to it. You'll also have Quia Quizzes for every chapter, and it's very important to not miss any of these because they're practically free 100s!! Every point counts in this class! I didn't miss a single quia quiz because I set reminders on my phone. This is extremely helpful! As for the unit essay questions, make sure to prepare for every single prompt for the corresponding unit! I found out that the key to a strong unit essay is by using lots of pronouns! Pronouns will be your best friend. Know the events, significant historical figures, programs, organizations for the time period. For the unit exams, you should be fine if you've been keeping up with your reading for each chapter. Half of it is what-you-know questions (like the multiple choice questions on the usual chapter quizzes) and the other half consists of stimulus questions (ones that you'll see in the multiple choice portion of the actual AP exam). A good review for the unit exams and chapter quizzes would be Adam Norris videos. I highly recommend watching all 30 videos again a day or two before the actual AP exam. He points out key events and people from each chapter and time period which is extremely helpful for the long essay and multiple choice. At the end of the year, you'll have to make a presentation for an assigned theme. I'd highly recommend going through these because the DBQ (at least for this year) is completely based on the theme. I was so lucky because the DBQ was on my theme, so I was completely set! Albert is a really good source for preparing for the AP exams as well because the multiple choice are all stimulus-based which are the exact same type of questions you'll find in the first half of the exam. There'll definitely be times where you'll want to rip your hair out, but just keep pushing through it, it'll all pay off! Good luck (you'll need it) on both the AP exam at the end of the year and the rough journey ahead of you in the class itself! You can do it!

Sincerely,

Tran Le

APUSH Survivor  
APUSH 2017-2018 Alumni



Dear Future APUSH Students,

APUSH is a demanding course, and will require you to give up a great deal of time. Although the criteria that you are required to know is vast, passing the course and scoring a 5 on the AP exam is not impossible. If you truly and honest desire to pass this course with your utmost effort, I do have some simple tips and advices to optimize your learning. Class wise, the course is not difficult at all so you can forget about those prior misconceptions about the class. To be honest, I believe interest and memory is all you need for this class. When you actually take this course, in class you'll have a few assignments and assessments. Some of these assessments are worth less than others, and therefore, you shouldn't put as much effort into. A majority of your grade each quarter would be decided by generally 2 factors; the pop-quizzes and the chapter tests that make up about 60% of your grade. All these assessments might sound intimidating, but they're not hard. You may assume that you'll do terrible on these assessments cause maybe testing is not your thing, but you don't have to worry. Pop-quizzes and the chapter tests are all content tests that come from the textbook that is assigned to you. What does this mean? Well it's very simple; it means that you only need to know or have a somewhat decent understanding of the content of each chapter from the textbook. This task is easy, however it might be time-consuming, thus you should manage your time wisely. If you are still worried, I'd suggest rereading the chapter once more to get a better understanding of the chapter. From my personal experience, I'm sure there are at least 1-2 questions on most of the chapter quiz that comes word for word from the textbook chapter.

If this is still too time-consuming, there are other ways to basically reach this extent of understanding. There are some valuable external sources that can assist in your learning. Some that I would personally recommend would be the Adam Norris and Jocz Productions youtube videos. Basically in Adam Norris's videos, he spends about 8-10 minutes to highlight the most critical information of your textbook, which may be a decent way to skip reading the textbook a second time. Jocz Productions on the other hand, go over the American Pageant textbook that generally takes about 16-20 minutes. Although his videos may be lengthy and from another textbook, Jocz Productions gives detailed information that are essential, and to be honest, I personally prefer his videos over Adam Norris.

Other than the pop-quizzes and the chapter quizzes, there are exam multiple choices, SAQs, LEQs, and DBQs. All these other forms of assessments are worth less than the other 2 mentioned earlier, but they provided vital experience, especially since the actual AP exam is basically the same thing. During your joyful days of APUSH as you near the AP exam, I'd suggest you spend about half an hour or an hour a day each day during a month or two before. My main and most important advice is to not stress over it. Passing the AP exam with a 3 is about 40% therefore it is easy, and even if you don't do extremely well on your exam, just remember that you're still in high school.

From your fellow APUSH Historian,  
David Lin

## Letter to next year apush students

Hello next year apush students, welcome to Mr. Hansen's class! Here are some advices I want you to know, to help you success in this class.

First of all, AP means you are ready, and have the time and energy, for the subject, so never give up on this class through the time, is very important for people who want to pass.

Second, I know sometimes reading could be frustrating, but for this class, please read the book pages and educational material that Mr. Hansen assigned you, they are not only super helpful for quizizz and testes, but also make you quickly adapt into the time period, for which the short answer questions and essays much easier.

Also, even you get almost every informations you need for chapter quiz in the textbook, listen to Mr. Hansen's class, he is very professional on this subject and apush test procedures, you will more likely to pass the ap exam if you listen to what he want you to know.

Lastly, do not use study guides on the Internet as the only effort you make before test, they are helpful and missing a lot things, rely only on them will cause you fail badly. Hope you guys have a great year, and everyone of you pass the AP test!

Sincerely,

Former APUSH student Xu Lin

Dear Brave Students,

Congratulations! You have taken the bold step in your student life by taking APUSH. This class will not only test your reading and comprehending abilities, but it will also test your memory, as forgetting to do a single Quia chapter quiz can hurt your grade, permanently. This class will give you a gift in that you will never get a writing homework assignment, however, that means all of your homework will be based on reading the textbook. The Brinkley textbook is not only very large, with around 1,000 pages, but the homework assigned to you will consist mainly of reading as much as 15 pages of the book in a single night, which is recommended if you want to succeed. However, reading the Brinkley textbook chapters doesn't guarantee that you will get a high grade on the quizzes, I used to read every Brinkley chapter twice, and while this helped me get 100s on a couple quizzes throughout the year, the majority of my quizzes were stuck in the mid- B range. To do really well on the quizzes, meaning a mid to high A, I recommend keeping your focus on reading the AMSCO book (a condensed version of the Brinkley content) and also to watch the Adam Norris videos, which cover entire Brinkley chapters into 20 minute videos, fit for a student who doesn't have enough time in the day to read the book. I wish I knew how to study for this class, as even though you all have been in AP classes before, I promise that APUSH is like no other class that you've had before, to study for the quizzes, you don't have to read every detail in the chapter, you only have to memorize the key points, which the Adam Norris videos, as well as respective quizlets provide.

Now, so far, I have talked about the various resources that you can access to help you learn, but this is not always enough. I learned early on that to truly test how much you know, you should study with other friends, that way, you can quiz yourself with them, and everyone can review the chapters together, which would especially help with LEQs and DBQs review. When it comes to the unit LEQs, all of the themes which your unit will be tested on, can be found on Mr. Hansen's website. The LEQ questions are very straight forward, all they will do is choose a single concept from your unit, and will ask you to apply that concept to fully answer the question. The DBQ, in my opinion, is the most manageable assignment you can get, as all of the sources are already given to you, and all you have to do is make a compelling essay given your documents, and you could easily apply outside evidence if you pay attention to the content. For example, if your question was on the feminist movement in the 1960s, you could easily apply present conditions in the country, such as how there are college students are protesting the Vietnam war, and how economic conditions in the country have motivated women to protest. So in conclusion, some of the things which can help you pass this class are:

- Fully read chapters from the book, at least read the AMSCO book.
- Study with friends so you can review the content with each other.
- Watch the Adam Norris review videos and go over respective quizlets.

Good luck, and have fun in this class! This class is demanding, but can definitely be managed.

Dear Future APUSH Student,

You've likely heard your fair share of stories about how incredibly difficult Advanced Placement United States History is. The fact that you're reading this means that you signed up to take the class regardless. Maybe you want the collegiate clout of having the course on your transcript, maybe you're looking for a challenge, maybe you don't believe all of the stories, or maybe you just really love U.S. History. In any case, I'd like to give you some good news: the class isn't truly as hard as people make it out to be. Maintaining an A is completely manageable, as long as you go in with a couple essential expectations.

Expectation #1: You will have to study. I mean, this should be obvious, right? However, many high-achieving students coast through their high school career with decent test-taking skills, naturally proficient memorization, and the willingness to pay attention in class for at least half of the time. But this course goes very in-depth; you will need to know the major dates, people, and events from many individual years to score well on the chapter quizzes. Most students will not be able to absorb all of the necessary information from the first time listening. Additionally, not all material is covered in class. Mr. Hansen's lectures, though fantastic and informative, provide only overviews to all the facts you'll need to know for the class. A readiness to take notes, make flashcards, and crack open the Brinkley book once and awhile is the greatest component to a high grade in the class and on the AP exam.

Expectation #2: You will need to keep some kind of schedule. Thankfully, Mr. Hansen provides an organized, comprehensive list of all the class's assignments and lessons for the school year on his wonderful webpage. But, a certain sort of junioritis seems to take over around the second quarter that leaves students checking the schedule less and less frequently. This inevitably leads to the dreaded missing of a Quia quiz. There are several, small take-at-home quizzes given each quarter, which have been known to be grade-salvagers. However, forgetting to take one throws an instant zero in the gradebook, especially painful when you know that could have been a relatively easy grade boost. Mr. Hansen generally expects you to be responsible for your own assignments, and he *does not* take late work, so keeping a schedule complete with reminders and notifications will definitely save your grade at least once during the year.

Most students who decide to take APUSH have taken an AP course before, so you likely have an idea about the rigor of this class. Keep in mind that this probably will be one of the harder classes you take during your high school career, but it is manageable. Mr. Hansen expects a lot from his students, fostering the real-world skills of responsibility and independence, in addition to preparing you for the AP exam. If you open your mind to the

decidedly interesting material - and avoid procrastinating as much as possible - I know you will absorb plenty of knowledge, insight, and enjoyment from the class. I know I did!

Sincerely,  
Yasmine Mitchell

Dear Next Year's APUSH Students,

I want to start this letter off honestly: this has been the hardest class I have ever taken. But, with that said, I survived! APUSH is difficult, but doable. When I began my junior year, I was so nervous for this class after hearing all of the horror stories about hours of reading and endless pop quizzes. But having gotten through a whole year, I have learned so much that I am so thankful I decided to stick around. Here are a few good tips to survive your year in APUSH:

- Stay organized! This really isn't too difficult because Mr. Hansen is the most organized teacher I've ever had. If you follow the "homework helper", you'll know what's coming every day, which helps more than you can even imagine. Not exaggerating, the "homework helper" and Brinkley were like Bibles to me this year; you live by them. Just prioritize this class and plan ahead if you have lots of extracurriculars. I was in Night On Broadway this year, and still managed to get through exam week (same week as exams) by planning ahead.
- Adam Norris! This man saved my grade in this class. He makes great YouTube videos summarizing all of the Brinkley chapters. I found that watching them before and after reading the chapter helped me process the information more easily. Also check out his other videos too, there are a lot of good unit and theme reviews that help for the big exam in May.
- Pay attention during lectures! This is so important. I have trouble focusing, so instead of just trying to listen for 30 minutes, I would either take the notes the night before on the chapter so I could highlight and add to them during the lecture, or I would take notes on the powerpoint as Mr. Hansen spoke so I could stay engaged. Join the discussion and raise your hand as much as you can. The more you engage, the better you'll do on quizzes and tests.

I hope these tips help you this year! Make the most of this class, it can be really rewarding if you put in the effort. The workload is definitely a shock at first, but you will get used to it, trust me! Before you know it, you'll be writing a letter just like this and you will feel so proud of yourself for conquering APUSH. You're now apart of Mr. Hansen's APUSH class, an experience you'll never forget. Have a good junior year!

Wishing you the best,  
Katherine Murphy

Dear future APUSH students

I'm going to be honest, if you aren't prepared to work don't take this class. I'm here to tell you the things that you need to know to succeed in this class.

First being organized is key. Get flashcards to write vocabulary on and anything you are struggling with. If you don't want to use flashcards you can use Quizlet. Quizlet has online flashcards and different function that you can use to learn and spell what you need to. Secondly you need to take lots of notes. Specifically on political parties and presidential policies. Trust me you'll thank me later. You still need to take notes on important thing and make sure you keep them neat and organized.

Also stay focused in APUSH. You can Joke around in your other classes and get by but not this one. This is one of the hardest courses you'll ever take in school. You can zone out for 10 minutes and miss the entire civil war presentation. Staying focused is one of the most important things to do in this class. It is also one of the hardest because no one wants to sit around and watch boring videos and listen to Mr. Hanson ramble on about how much he hates that the Cold War even happened. Just stay focused through all of that.

Also make sure you prepare for the AP exam. Make sure you review EVERYTHING that we've gone over. Don't just highlight the important things. Take the practice exams seriously because the exams is very similar. Also, make sure you try your best when it comes to writing LEQ's and SAQ's. In the beginning you may not take these seriously, I know I didn't.

Things that I wish I'd known at the beginning of the year was that there would be so much work. I completely underestimated the amount of work that is needed to take this class. Also I wish I knew that I was going to transfer to Winter Park, because I was completely thrown aback at how much Mr. Hanson was ahead of my old history teacher.

When I arrived he was five chapter ahead of what I was before I got transferred.

Heed my warnings fellow students. Be prepared to stress and take all nighters.

Sincerely, Anthony Nixon

juniors:

So. You chose APUSH. And with the minimal chance of this letter was ever read by anyone, since I know most of you aren't going to spend your time on this seventy-something pages document, here are a few words of advice I have to offer.

First and foremost, understand why you are in this class. If you're here because you are passionate about history, or if you're patriotic enough to star on National Treasure along with Nicholas Cage, then great, welcome to class! It is a very informative and exciting course so you won't be disappointed. However, if you're here for that sweet AP credit on your transcript so that you can get into Harvard, then I advise you to go home, sleep on it, consider your 4.0 GPA, and then decide whether to drop this class or not. Because I'm telling you, there's a good chance you'll lose that perfect record.

Are you still here? I'm assuming you are or else that question would be utterly embarrassing. If you have decided to continue, I've got a few more words of advice for you buddy.

Secondly, study for your tests. A solid 90% of your grade depends on the exams you will take. Your homework grades worth a mere 10% of your progress reports, and it shares that 10% with your SAQ scores, which is also a sort of test you will be taking in this class. Needless to say, you will have to study for all those tests. Learn the material. Study it. Open your textbook. It's there for a reason. READ IT. If it seems all too hard and confusing and it's way too late for you to pull out? Then remember my words: no pain no gain; and sleep is for the weak. If you want to succeed in this class, you've got to put in more work than you've ever put in any classes before. A passion for history will make your way to an A less painful, but it doesn't make your path any shorter. So no matter who you are or why you are here, put on "Schuyler Sisters" and work as if you're trying to make Angelica proud.

Last, but certainly not least, ask questions, get help. Mr. Hansen is there for a reason. Talk to him! This isn't the college board where everything is mythical, and all your sweat and efforts will result in a single number without the simple explanation "just because." You can get feedback and improve from there. You're not some dweeb who's meeking out in the queenly presence of Beyoncé. You're a student who's trying to improve so suck it up and ask questions. It'll benefit you in the long run.

There you have it. Person who've actually spend the time to read this. Which I can now presume you are ahead in the game after reading mine and several other of my peer's letters, since I know you are not the majority. Good luck, work hard, succeed, and YOLO.

Dear future adolescent,

Advanced Placement United States History is not a class to slack off in, I wish that I had known the severity of doing nightly readings. The readings are the most important assignments you'll receive in the upcoming year due to the fact that they will reflect on the weekly quizzes that are 100 points each.

Procrastination will not be accepted in Mr. Hansen's class without a liable excuse, so make sure to also do weekly quia quizzes with are worth 10 points each but will eventually add up to a larger sum so don't let the small number fool you. Checking your canvas or emails frequently is a significant idea in the sense that there are sometimes reminders for the assignments that you have most likely forgotten about.

Being absent one day will not exempt you from the assignments done in class, remember to get that excuse letter in or else that assignment will be docked 20% of the final score, this includes quizzes, exams, and essays, as these are the biggest assignments that will ever be done in class. Class time is mainly reserved for lectures, tests, and project work.

Projects are the way Mr. Hansen gets the class to teach itself, by giving small groups of students subtopics to create presentations about, the class will present each of their subtopics. It is imperative that you pay attention during another presentation as this will help you on the upcoming quiz, though group assignments do not occur often. On the topic of projects, there is an end of the year project that is crucial to studying for the AP end of the year exam, where you create a 40-50 slide presentation on one of the themes of the 7 historical themes.

Mr. Hansen is not a very lenient when it comes to grades, at the end of the year when you ask for a grade boost, he will not even debate with you unless you do not have a single missing assignment within the entire year.

Be sure to take advantage of Mr. Hansen's website, as it can be deemed very useful when it comes to studying. He provides a plethora of ways to study from chapter questions to review videos. Also be sure to get get ahead of the game when it come to the weekly reading, Mr. Hansen enjoys to assign weekly pop quizzes that are randomized for every period so cheating gets really hard so might as well not even try.

Remember to keep all these points in mind throughout your junior and remember to never underestimate this class or it will eat you alive, as I am in the belly of the monster right now bringing this letter to you.

- Ashton PiaLabrada

Mr.Hansen's Future Students,

I am a huge Hamilton fan so I thought I would know everything there is to know about American history, I soon realized that American history is more than just the 18th century. When I first joined this class everybody said it would be the hardest AP class I would take in high school, but honestly it isn't too bad. Just bring Mr.Hansen lots of cake and you'll be fine. In all serious this class is going to be difficult but you can get an A or B if you follow a few guidelines.

A lot of people don't take notes in this class, I feel like my best piece of advice would be to take notes IN class and actually pay attention to his lectures. At home I got away with not taking notes but if I hadn't paid attention in class my quiz scores would have plummeted. Mr.Hansen tries to make the class really engaged in his lessons and he plays helpful videos that help you remember small tidbits of information on the tests.

Make sure you're organized! I would recommend getting a planner and writing all the due dates down for the quarter at the beginning of each quarter. My first quarter I did this and I did really well in the class and in my second quarter I got lazy and my report card showed it. The Quia quizzes account for a lot of points and they add up pretty quickly thus when you forget one, your grade will drop. The same goes for the pop quizzes, although you can't write them in your planner, they are in the category that weighs the most so make sure you read or do quizlet cards before class.

When I study I have to do more hands on studying, I have quite a few friends who can just watch a video and be prepared for a test. To me, while the videos are helpful at getting main ideas, a lot of the quizzes have information in the textbook. So the readings, even though they are like 15 pages a night, are actually kind of helpful. Take some notes, make some flashcards, make a study guide, do something that will help you personally! Mr.Hansen is a great teacher but he can't come home with you and tutor you so remember that you are the best teacher you will ever have.

Don't compare yourself to other students, that is a good lesson in life but it is a great lesson in this class. See, I think I am pretty good at history but the people beside me were better than I will ever be. Some people just retain and memorize information better than you will, and it's not you personally it's just capabilities of one person should never be compared to another. Plus the kids who say that they "never studied" are lying to you, they probably study every night so don't worry about it. You do your thing, it's your life and your grade so don't look at another person and belittle yourself about it.

Mr.Hansen gives you the tools to succeed, if you use these tools and you work hard, the rest will be a breeze.

Best Regards,  
Claire Prudhomme

Dear Next Year APUSH Students,

APUSH is not a class that everyone should take. I'm glad I knew that before I signed up for this class because it would have ruined my GPA if I hadn't. I recommend all of you considering to take this class to really think about the type of attitude you have towards AP classes overall. Do you read out of your textbook(s) when it is assigned? Do you submit your assignments on time? If you answered no, then I'm going to tell you that you should take Honors instead. If you answered yes, then I would encourage you to take this class. It is important that you remember when assignments are due, and to analyze what you read. Also, be prepared for pop quizzes. Mr. Hansen loves to look at students' facial expressions when he announces that there's a pop quiz. This is why reading the pages assigned for the night is extremely important. Pop quizzes and quia quizzes you will come to find out can actually save your grade. It is imperative that you not forget to take your quia quizzes. Mr. Hansen has tons of resources at the disposal of his students to help them prepare for every quiz, Unit Exam, Unit LEQ, DBQ, and SAQ, USE THEM! I cannot stress this enough, use the resources available and you will find that your quiz scores will be much better than others. Most importantly, if you have any questions regarding an assignment, don't be afraid to ask Mr. Hansen. Don't be afraid that he's going to think you're an idiot for not understanding something. Also, any feedback that you get on any writing assignment, use that to help you progress with your writing skills. Honestly, we never got much homework in class besides reading the textbook and chapter quia quizzes. So, if you took AP World History with Ms. Velez do not expect Mr. Hansen to hold your hand throughout the year. This class goes by pretty fast and sometimes it might seem hard to keep up, so I recommend getting a calendar and manually writing down what you need to do throughout the week and its priority. Also, make friends with students in your class and get some of their phone numbers. You can help each other answer questions and review for tests and quizzes. Last but not least, take it easy, this may seem like a stressful class but honestly it isn't that bad.

Sincerely,

Amaris Rivera

Dear, Next Year's Apush Students

This class is definitely not an easy class. I'm sure you've heard that this is a difficult class and the rumors are 100% true. However if you are coming from AP World then there is one benefit of APUSH and that is that it's much more focused than AP world. You don't have to worry about all the different Chinese Dynasties and all that but the information is much more detailed and you have to do a ton of reading. There are a few things that I wish I had done from the beginning of the year in this class.

The first thing that I did wrong is that I never did the online Quia quizzes. These quizzes are very important to do. They might not be a big grade but they add up and can really hurt your grade. I'd say put a reminder on your phone if you're a forgetful person like I am because these quizzes will fly right past you without you even noticing. Another piece of advice regarding the Quia quizzes is not to hold them off or procrastinate with them, do them as soon as you can to reduce the chances of you forgetting to do it. About once or twice in the year there will be a very large Quia quiz that is worth 100 points and you can NOT afford to forget about that one. I made the mistake once and it not only hurt my marking period grade, but also my year to date grade. So seriously, don't brush off these quizzes and take them seriously. Make sure to keep the login for Quia somewhere very obvious on your laptop so you can't forget or lose it.

The next big mistake that I made and you can hopefully learn from is taking Mr Hansen's make up dates extremely seriously. If you miss a quiz, exam, or essay of any kind he will send you an email with the dates you can make up the assessment. A very important thing to keep in mind is this: if one of the make up dates are on a Friday, you can strictly only make it up before school and not after school. Friday is Golf Day and Mr. Hansen gets out of the school as soon as humanly possible. Don't make the mistake I made because a 0/100 in the gradebook does not leave a pleasant taste in your mouth. Also similar to this topic is that Mr. Hansen does not accept late work. If you don't do an assignment then it will stay as a 0 and you will just have to deal with it.

I will say that this class isn't all dark and gray. Mr. Hansen is a good teacher and in my opinion makes what he's teaching genuinely interesting for the most part. He words things into normal people vocabulary and language unlike textbooks and makes everything easy to understand. A large plus of this class is he rarely actually assigns a homework assignment, you are however expected to read the textbook every night and if you want to be successful then you need to study for your quizzes, exams, and essays.

Good Luck - Julian

Dear fellow AP US History student,

APUSH is one of the most challenging and time-consuming classes offered at this school because you're required to take a quiz, test, SAQ, LEQ, or DBQ nearly every day. If you're not accustomed to this, you might want to find religion. Additionally, if you have a life, job, sport, or any other time commitment, you definitely won't end up reading all eight-hundred pages of the abominable "Alan Brinkley American History" textbook. Your best chance at succeeding is reading as much as you can and acing every Quia quiz. For whatever reason, some of them are only available for two days, so stay on top of them. I personally google each term on the list right before I take each quiz and usually make 100%. If you don't miss any assignments, Mr. Hansen will drop your lowest quiz grade each quarter, which is a fat advantage. Good luck.

Respectfully,  
Connor A. Sanders

Dear students,

Welcome to APUSH! One piece of advice I have for you is to take this class seriously. I won't lie to you, it can be a lot of work at times, but Mr. Hansen does a fantastic job at preparing you for the exam in May. Take notes on his lectures! Sometimes he will say information that isn't in our book that he puts on our quizzes. He has a class webpage with anything and everything you could possibly need to pass the class on it. Don't bother getting a notebook for this class, it won't help. It is much easier in my opinion to take notes on a Google Doc and organize it that way. Mr. Hansen sometimes covers topics too fast to keep up with handwriting notes.

The chapter quizzes are not hard. I suggest doing the Brinkley practice quizzes to prepare for the chapter quizzes as well as look up quizlets with the key terms for that chapter. Quia quizzes, they are gradesavers. Do not forget about them, they are online and Mr. Hansen doesn't always remind the class when they are due. This class is not hard to get a B in if you stay on top of it and stay organized.

The one mistake I made this year was not consistently reading the chapters and doing poorly on pop quizzes. Yes, he gives us pop quizzes. Make sure you read the sections in the textbook that are in green or yellow, sometimes Mr. Hansen throws easy questions on the chapter quizzes from them to make sure people are reading. For every unit there are also essays and exams. The essay is usually done before the unit exam so my suggestion is to write out EVERY single topic with lots of evidence and analysis. It helps you prepare for the essay you might get and then also helps you prepare for the unit exam as well.

The class may seem like a lot of work, and it will be in the beginning. But eventually if you put enough work in to it, it gets easier and a lot more enjoyable. If you don't stay on top of this class and make it your priority, you will fall behind and it will kill your grade. This class is very fast paced and has a lot of information to cover for the AP exam. Take it seriously!

Good Luck!

Sincerely,  
Megan Slattery



Hello!

If you're reading this, than you've decided to take on the challenge of the rigorous course of AP U.S. History.

First of all, let's start out with the fact that I believe in you and that you have the potential to do so well in this class. You're smart enough to excel, and with hard work you'll come to appreciate all the knowledge and skills you acquire.

This class surely isn't easy. And considering you've applied to take it, you know that. Try to remember through the year that 10-15 minutes of reading Brinkley will seem like nothing when you take the final exam. Protect and love that textbook with your life!

APUSH is one of the first classes I've taken where I've felt like it aimed to prepare me for college. Mr. Hansen expects great work from his students. When he assigns homework, make SURE to do it, he will not take late work. It may seem daunting and unfair at times, but all I can say is that you are being prepared for what lies beyond high school.

Although I entered this class with some prior knowledge, there are certain things that I wish I had been told. AMSCO is such a help. It helps to read the chapter the night before a quiz to bring back information in a concise way. Take time and look through all of the resources on Hansen's House of History. From last minute study guides to primary sources, there's so many benefits to be found if you just look a little deeper. Quizlet will become your best friend! Brinkley and amsco terms are points that are so easily within your control. Use that to your advantage. Reading is HEAVY in this course. Prioritize the pages Hansen assigns you for the night, you may never know when a pop quiz is sneaking up on you.. (But don't beat yourself up if you miss it a couple times. Grant grace upon yourself.) And finally, whether you absolutely adore U.S. History or dislike it with a passion, you will feel yourself burn out. And that's normal and valid. But please just keep pushing! I promise that you'll get through it and be grateful that you did.

In the end, you're ready for this year. It may be a rough one, but with hard work and perseverance, you will learn so much. Whether it be the content of American history you learn that helps you in your career, the skills of reading, analysis, and sourcing, or even the things you learn about yourself and your learning style in this class, APUSH has so much to offer in terms of your growth as a student and as a person with the potential to change the world.

Best Regards (and good luck),

Danielle Sohn ☺☐

Dear future APUSH students,

**PLEASE FOR THE LOVE OF GOD STUDY FOR THE QUIZZES!!!!!!**

Mr Hansen is a great guy, but his class is **hard** one thing that will make your grade the envy of your peers is to actually spend time studying for your quizzes. There's no other way around it. My average quiz score without studying was ~67% but when I actually took the time to study it rose to >80%. All of the advice other than this is trivial. If you follow one piece of advice this year it's **STUDY**. And by study I mean read the chapter word for word at least once and find quizlets because you are gonna need them, and also check out Adam Norris on youtube and the Crash Course American History videos about whatever time periods you're studying. If you take the time to actually study for the quizzes you will not regret it. I cannot stress enough how important it is to actually study. When I first got advice from previous students I was like "yeah, they're just wimps who can't handle a hard class *like me*" but boy was I wrong. I calculated the risks and boy am I bad at math because these quizzes hit me like a truck. **IGNORE THE LITTLE SH\*T IN YOUR BRAIN TELLING YOU NOT TO LISTEN TO THE ADVICE BECAUSE THEY JUST WANT TO WATCH YOU CRASH AND BURN.** Also, when he says he doesn't take late work, he *really* means he doesn't take late work (trust me I've tried).

~ Sean Stapleton (a.k.a Someone who wish they took their own advice)

Dear future students,

APUSH is a very valuable class to take and it is one that I would highly recommend, but you have to know how to manage your time and how to study. If you dont you are absolutely screwed. The biggest piece of advice that I can give you is to read your textbook and when you don't want to anymore you have to push through and keep reading. Its dull and boring but if you stop reading your test scores will go from 80's to 50's real fast.

However taking a class of this rigor is a very good way to prepare yourself for college. In all my other classes I have opportunities to raise my grade with homework and extra credit and easy "grade boosters" but in this class you need to learn how to do well on quizzes and test because that is essentially your entire grade.

A couple things that helped me out throughout the year were review videos by Adam Norris, and the review notes and powerpoints that are on Mr. Hansen's website. A great resource you can take advantage of during the school year are the links on Mr. Hansen's website, a lot of them will take you to helpful quizzes and study guides that will help prepare you for the tests.

The biggest thing you need to realize when you take this class is that you should not expect to get an A. The only kids who get A's in this class are kids who are naturally really good test takers and study *a lot*. Other than that you need to be ok with possibly getting a B even with all the work you put in for the class. While it may ruin your perfect GPA the life experience you gain from taking this class is more than enough to make up for it.

As the class material goes, you can never really get bored in this class, though you might fall asleep sometimes due to a busy high school life and having to wake up at stupid hours in the morning (I know I did more than I would like to admit) the class is always very interesting and Mr. Hansen is never a boring teacher to listen to. Even though the class is very much just a traditional kind of lecture style of teaching I always enjoyed listening to what he had to teach.

All together I know this class can be a lot and I know that kids can freak out over it but if you are on the fence you need to just suck it up and take it. Coming from AP world history it's not as much of a leap as you think it will be. The essays are the same and so are the short answer questions. While it may seem like a lot in the beginning of the year you get used to the flow of the class real quick. Dont worry youll be fine in APUSH. You will survive. Just take it.

-Colin Urbina

Dear Future Apush Students

This is one of the first AP classes that I have taken where I studied hard and rarely procrastinated and I still struggled to get A's on assignments, tests and quizzes. This class will push you and sometimes it really challenges your ability to persevere and complete the work. I advise that if you feel that in the first month this class is not right for you, withdraw from it. However if you do decide to continue with the class you must keep up with the workload. Don't expect to read the textbook and do well, actually study.

The amount of reading you have to do for this class will be an adjustment for students. At least it was for me and all my friends who has taken AP classes and were in IB before. Keep up with the reading, if you fall behind it is very difficult to catch up, due to the amount that is assigned each day. Read the chapters very well. When you read the chapters make sure to take notes and make an outline for them. When you write it down you remember. Instead of trying to remember every single detail that you have read, try to understand the general theme, or concept of what you are reading. Also refrain from reading the whole assigned reading at once, you will rarely remember the main points and I find it's a bit of an overload. What I would do is really focus and take notes for about twenty minutes and then take a two minute break. This helped me clear my mind and I found that I remembered more when I used this technique. If you are a person that has had good results from doing flash cards then try those. When I would do flash cards I would just write down each decade from each chapter to see the general theme. Don't worry about knowing every single person, place or event that occurred, if that is what you focus on then you won't really understand what you are learning.

Something I wished I would have done better was keeping up with the quia quizzes. I know it will seem like they are just five or ten point quizzes but those points add up. Trust me, you will want to do every quia quiz, even if you don't get good grades on them, it will be better than a missing. If I had done all those quia quizzes then I would probably be a whole letter grade higher. Mr. Hansen does not allow make up work. Try to get as much of the assignments done as you can the day it is assigned. Doing this will help with the amount you would have to do if you left all the work last minute. There is also no extra credit. There is no life line in this class.

Study before hand for the chapter quizzes and unit tests. Review the main themes and important people and events. The quizzes he gives you will have so free response questions. The saq's and leq's were something I really struggled with. If I had a better understanding of the chapters and the main themes beforehand then I feel I would have done better. The leq's or the unit essay topics will be on the class website. Make sure you can navigate through the class website well. It will help you in the long run. Make sure you look at the homework helper, often there will be assignments due, but he will not always tell you there are assignments. Often Mr. Hansen will tell you about an assignment or quiz once and that's it. I also recommend having a planner. Write down all the things you need to do the minute you find out about them. Also something I did was write down important due dates on my calendar that I have at home. So in case I forgot about an assignment I see it on my calendar and I know the amount of time I have to complete them.

Dear Next Year's APUSH Students,  
Welcome to Mr. Hanson's AP US History class. There are several things you need to know to be successful in this class. Firstly, don't be a lazy idiot like me; actually read the textbook. Doing the reading will greatly improve your quiz and pop quiz scores. It only takes 15 minutes out of your day anyway, so there really is no reason not to do the reading. Also, you are really going to want to pay attention in class, because Hanson is very thorough and goes over everything, so if there is something you don't understand about the topic or the reading, chances are he will answer it before you even have time to raise your hand, so pay attention.

This class is not hard, it just requires you to pay attention to it and study it. I went into this class thinking it was going to be boring as sin, but once I realized how much Mr. Hanson enjoys teaching this subject, I was drawn in and this class quickly became one of my favourites, and by far my most interesting.

Throughout the year, you will take online quizzes called "quia quizzes". They are very easy and are a great study resource, but if you forget to take them, you will see a drop in your overall grade. Just between you and me, these are take-home online quizzes, so one could say that they are very VERY open note \*wink\* \*wink\*.

Another poor mistake you can make in this class is choosing to fall asleep. Once I started using this class as naptime, my grade dropped from an A to a C in less than a week, so if you have to sleep because you were up all night playing Fortnite, don't do it in this class. You will fall behind very quickly.

As a closing note, I will say that you get out of this class what you put into it. If you choose to ignore this class and let yourself fall behind, you will find that you won't be very interested in the subject and think it's a waste of time. However, if you actually put a modicum of effort into this class and listen to Mr. Hanson and do the readings, this is by far the most interesting, fun class you will take all year (Unless you have Mr. Sandusky for guitar).

Dear Future APUSH Student,

I first would love to congratulate you on taking a quite rigorous course that many students are afraid to go into over worries of their GPA. Despite it's difficulty, I am more than happy I took this course as it is very well taught, made very interesting thanks to Mr. Hansen's sophisticated teaching, and practically guarantees success on the AP Exam in May. At the beginning of the year, I wish I put more effort into this class as it really tends to become the primary course of focus due to its rigor. Despite what your grade ends up being in the class, as long as any effort is put in, a lot can be learned about American history and give the most detail possible about pivotal moments in our wonderful nation's past. The best advice at this early point in the year is to devise a working schedule, and figure out how you can incorporate proper study methods to guarantee your success this year. The way in which you can accomplish this is by reading the textbook, and completing the assigned quia quizzes. Utilize the homework helper, this will allow you to plan for every future quiz, SAQ, LEQ, DBQ, and Unit exam to guarantee and maximum amount of preparation and a high reduction in stress as you will always be prepared. Quizzes are weekly assessments comprised of multiple choice and fill in the blank questions that are best understood in the context of reading the chapter and interpreting the information properly. Had you taken AP World or Euro last year, incorporate all of your rubric knowledge surrounding SAQs, LEQs, and DBQs into this course as they are identical and can utilize some successful methods you may have used in your prior AP history class. The Unit exams focus around a collection of chapters and have a hybrid combination of 25 content related questions and 25 stimulus based, to best prepare you for the exam. The class also rests on fundamental key concepts that ultimately build the foundation of the course, those concepts should be reviewed periodically and understand how the different key concepts and thematic learning objectives are applied throughout history. There are times where you will likely feel discouraged due to some very difficult tests or essays, but at the end of the day you'll find solace in the quality of the class and ultimately more than likely achieve the college credit for the course as the exam preparation is very helpful and accurate. Above grades, credits, and achievement, learning as much as you do is ultimately the most important factor when you reflect on your past year just as I am doing right now. If you are a 4.0 student, be prepared to work immensely hard as achieving an A is quite a difficult feat. If you simply want the college credit, pay attention, absorb detail, and prepare well and the exam will be a breeze. I wish you luck as you embark on this wild but fantastic journey of a class, whatever you put into it is what you ultimately will get out of it.

Dearest Future Stress Filled Students,

This class is going to give you anxiety... the only way to really get through this class is if you pay attention to almost everything Mr. Hansen says, almost, because listening to 45 mins of history, back to back days is quite tiring and unamusing. Although he is an amazing teacher and if you go to him for guidance whenever you have a pertaining issue, he can guide you down the right path. This class is going to have a lot of work to go along with it, it really isn't that much as long as you keep up with the work and make sure to start projects early. Then pertaining to the information needed for the pop quizzes do not just watch the Adam Norris videos, even though I know them to be somewhat helpful and easy, but in the end they are some people's biggest regret. Due to not all the information being in the videos so you go into a test really not knowing half of the questions on it, the videos only touch on the base of the chapters and topics, instead you can skim the book for proper nouns and read the context around them which will get you a much better grade.

Then above all find the courage and perseverance in yourself to make it to class everyday, I cannot stress that enough, if you just show up and not zone out or sleep, you are bound to keep at least a C average which is still an outstanding grade in this course. I believe in you to be able to tackle this monster of a course, Mrs. Sanders or Mama Valez probably told you to be prepared for this course mentally and they are more than right. You're basically walking into the unknown, you could be confronted by aliens or a yeti, but i promise you once you get past the AP exam you are free. But if you sign up for this course I wish you luck and it is possible to pass but you must want it bad enough.

Last Year's APUSH Student

Dear APUSH students,

APUSH isn't as bad as you've heard. It is a difficult class, but if you put your mind to it you'll do fine. Mr Hansen is a great teacher and he will guide you through the course. I was intimidated at first but he does a good job at easing you into the workload of the class and making sure you have all the resources you need to succeed.

There is a lot of reading involved in this class. At first, when I saw that all the homework we had to do was read from the textbook, I took it as we didn't have homework and I didn't read. Then after getting a couple of D's on the pop quizzes and chapter tests that I should start applying myself and trying on my own to really learn the material, because there is so much that it is impossible for Mr. Hansen to cover it in enough detail in class. After reading and studying I was easily getting A's and B's.

Make sure you do all the assignments! Especially the Quia quizzes. Make a reminder on your phone or write down somewhere that you have one due; if I had remembered to do all my Quia quizzes I probably would have an A instead of a B in the class. They aren't that hard and don't take too long, they are times for either 5 or 10 minutes. Don't turn anything in late either: you won't be allowed to turn it in and you'll get a zero. You might not think it's fair but, like Mr. Hansen says, "Life isn't fair, get used to it". Like I said, just write down somewhere or set a reminder to turn something in.

This course goes very fast. Just keep on pace with the reading, watch Adam Norris and Crash course videos, set up study groups, etc, and you can do really well. It's not so much that the material is difficult but that there is so much. Don't cram for tests, it's impossible. I guess it's possible if you're okay with failing. If you have an LEQ or DBQ or SAQ next week, spend a little time starting as soon as possible reviewing.

This class will be over before you know it. The AP exam is much sooner than it seems, but you'll be prepared. Just take advantage of all the resources Mr. Hansen gives you and it won't be bad.

Sincerely,  
Chris Wolfe