### Daviess County High School



 **Advanced Placement United States History (APUSH)/**

 **Advanced Placement English Language and Composition (AP Lang)**

Welcome to the FIRSTyear of combined AP US History and AP Lang! We are excited to have this opportunity to combine the coursework in a meaningful way. This yearlong class is designed to utilize primarily historical content to foster critical thinking skills and develop effective reading and writing abilities.

By taking AP US/AP Lang, you are not preparing for college-level classes; you are **IN** college-level classes. Much will be expected of you in this rigorous course. You will have a college-level textbook and it is your responsibility to read it. You will also be required to read additional primary and secondary sources as well as two novels (one 1st semester and one 2nd). You will learn to read analytically, examine rhetorical writing strategies, reach conclusions, and effectively support your conclusions in writing. You will be expected to do more than memorize names, dates, and facts—you’ll learn how to connect those facts to broader themes of U.S. History and write convincing essays articulating your ideas.

It is our highest goal to help you improve the quality of your thinking and writing. It will take practice and dedication on your part to develop those skills. You will write more essays than you are accustomed to. You will do more reading than you are accustomed to – more time than a quick reading over your lunch-period. Your efforts will assist you in processing information and challenge you to think.

The class historical content includes U.S. History from pre-Columbian America to the present. It is designed to help you pass the AP United States History test in May. The APUSH test is content based. If you don’t know the content you will not do well. Tests in class will be as close to the AP format as possible. A passing score on the AP U.S. History exam allows high school students to receive six hours of college credit, take higher level college history courses, or have a double major in college.

The class English instruction will include a focus on analytical reading/rhetorical analysis, vocabulary acquisition, daily grammar practice, formal argument study and writing skills. A passing score on the AP Lang exam will earn students from three to six hours of college credit depending on the college, will allow students to take higher level college English courses, or earn a double major in college.

With this being said, we want you to know that we are here for you. We are here to help you learn, pass the AP exams, and ace the ACT! Since AP courses place greater demands on students than those to which they are often accustomed to, you may need to meet with us from time to time to overcome problems you are having. We welcome the opportunity to help you one-on-one and will also offer optional review sessions one or two days before each major test.