

**Thank you for your interest in AP US History Online, Section 3, led by Susan Richman  
Print out this form and return via US mail, signed and dated to:**

Pennsylvania Homeschoolers, Attn: AP US History  
105 Richman LN  
Kittanning PA 16201-5737

**Application Form for PA Homeschoolers Online AP US HISTORY course, Section 3.**

Course shall run from August 24, 2011 to May 18, 2012. Course website will be operational by July 25, 2011 for summer bonus work and informal discussion.

Estimated number of hours of study per week: minimum 10.

See basic description of course at [www.pahomeschoolers.com](http://www.pahomeschoolers.com) , including the student reviews of the course – this should help you understand some of the range of activities involved in AP US History. There is NO ‘real time’ coursework (no online required live lectures/discussions); all work is done asynchronously (each student can participate and submit work at the time of day that best suits his schedule and time zone). Written assignments are submitted weekly directly onto the class website, where others can then respond to the work, and a message board for informal discussion and communication is used regularly.

**Transcript of final course grade** issued after student has taken the AP US History exam at a public or private school site on May 11, 2012. Actual AP exam grade will be used by any future colleges to determine possible college credit or advanced placement. You will receive your official AP exam grade directly from the College Board in July 2012. This course has been authorized through the College Board AP Audit process, meeting all curricular guidelines. Homeschool students completing this course are therefore authorized to use the AP designation on their official high school transcript.

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age /DOB \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name : \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email address \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE for 2011-2012 school year— circle one: 9th 10th 11th 12th

### **Costs of AP US History course:**

Once a student has been notified by the instructor, Susan Richman, that he/she has been accepted into the course, the family should then pay the following tuition fee online, starting in April 2011, at [www.pahomeschoolers.com](http://www.pahomeschoolers.com). Students must have all texts by August 15, 2011:

**Tuition:** \$575 \*early bird\* tuition fee. On July 1, 2011, tuition fee will be \$600.

Books not included with tuition. **Please note the refund and dismissal policies for our AP online courses up at our website at [www.pahomeschoolers.com](http://www.pahomeschoolers.com)**

### **Required texts:**

1. Barrons' AP US History Guide 9<sup>th</sup> Edition: \$16.99 (New – also available 2<sup>nd</sup> hand from many websites)
2. Basic text: YOU HAVE A CHOICE OF TEXTS — a FREE digital online text OR a traditional 900+ page print text.

**ONLINE FREE multi-media DIGITAL HISTORY text:** <http://www.digitalhistory2.uh.edu> Even students using the print text will want to use this site for primary documents, specific directed readings, and more— and I highly recommend it for review work for all students. Students need to be online to use this text, although reading assignments can easily be printed out for use away from a computer. This option could be very useful for those families who need to watch their budget. I recommend families take a look at this online text now. We have a direct link from our class site to this online multi-media text. This website includes extensive material beyond just the core text—including excellent review materials and much more.

### **Print text America and Its Peoples: A Mosaic in the Making, by James Kirby Martin et al.**

Students can choose either the 4<sup>th</sup> (2000) or 5<sup>th</sup> (2003) editions. This text can be purchased used at many 2<sup>nd</sup> hand textbook dealers (see below) The newer text is generally more expensive, but does include info on the Bush presidency, and 9/11 and its aftermath, which the 4<sup>th</sup> edition 2000 text is of course missing. However, these topics will not be covered on the APUSH exam, and info is readily available online on these topics. Either text will be fine for this year—and you'll be able to find the 4<sup>th</sup> edition text MUCH cheaper 2<sup>nd</sup> hand online. The website for the 5<sup>th</sup> edition text is at: [http://wps.ablongman.com/long\\_martin\\_aip\\_5](http://wps.ablongman.com/long_martin_aip_5), and we will use this website frequently throughout the year, via a direct link from our class website. One of the principal authors of this print text (Steven Mintz) is the author and creator of the free online Digital History text. Some students who will primarily be using the Digital History text may want an inexpensive 2<sup>nd</sup> hand copy of the print text for extra reference.

NOTE: Be sure to get either the hardback edition of AAIP which covers **all** of US history, from exploration through the present, **OR** both Volume I and Volume 2 of the paperback editions (each with 'half' of US history—these are used for one-semester college courses; AP US History is like a 2-semester college course). The text has multiple ISBN numbers—more info on this will come when students have been accepted to the course.

I will provide PDF files for download from our course website for the monthly assignments using DBQ past exam questions. Links to video and audio lectures are free from our course website.

**Computer requirements and pre-requisite computer skills:**

Student must provide own home computer (with an updated web browser) for this course. Family must have a hi-speed Internet connection that will enable students to view online video lectures or listen to audio files. Students will need an email address, and I will also need a separate email address for the parents.

1. Do you already meet this minimum computer requirement? YES / NO

2. Do you know how to type effectively? YES / NO

(if no, you can't be in the course— typing with ease is a prerequisite)

3. Do you already know how to use the Internet? YES / NO

3. Circle computer Internet skills you have:

- do searches online with major search engines
- copy-and-paste into forms
- use browsers — mark favorite sites, go to links, use sidebars
- use email and create address lists
- know how to listen to audio and video files online
- have Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download)
- have AOL-IM chat or some other type of online 'chat' program, such as Skype or GoogleTalk (often used for student-to-student interaction and study times, and students can also IM teacher with quick questions)
- website design experience (not a prerequisite—but there will be a website or multi-media creation project during the year).
- Know how to download videos online using RealPlayer or some other free download program (to help view online videos without irritating 'buffering' problems)

**Recent standardized testing info**, if available (I'm mostly concerned with tests that reflect reading ability— there has been shown to be a major correlation between higher reading/verbal scores and AP US History scores):

Latest achievement test scores: Test\_\_\_\_\_Reading\_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

SAT scores, if any: Critical Reading\_\_\_\_\_Writing\_\_\_\_\_Math\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

SAT Subject Test scores, if any: tests taken\_\_\_\_\_scores\_\_\_\_\_

Previous AP Scores, if any: course:\_\_\_\_\_score:\_\_\_\_\_

Previous AP exams taken (scores not in yet):\_\_\_\_\_

Was this an on-line course?\_\_\_\_\_ Independent study?\_\_\_\_\_ Group class? \_\_\_\_\_

Other tests: PSAT, ACT, etc.\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE re/ testing scores:** I certainly wouldn't expect any student to have scores for all of these tests— just put NA, if scores are 'Not Available'. If absolutely no back scores are available it would be a help to have your parent or another teacher/evaluator you've worked with write a brief 'recommendation' letter or summary of your past progress, especially related to reading ability. It is crucial that you be able to read advanced high school and college level material with ease, as all of our texts are at this level.

**Educational Background and Plans for this year:**

**1. Have you ever \*completed\* an on-line course before?** Please describe briefly, including any grades or basic evaluations received (add an attachment if you need more room):

**2. Are you planning on other AP courses this coming year? If so, which ones?**

**3. Are you planning on taking any college courses at a local college this year? If so, which ones?**

**NOTE:** Past experience has shown that if students try to take on too many AP courses in one year, most have a very tough time of it (one student a number of years ago signed up for 4 courses on-line with us, and ended up dropping ALL of them— lots of money and opportunity wasted...). Likewise, students who take more than one course at a local college often find that they begin ignoring their AP Online course— so don't feel you need to impress me with saying "yes" you'll take four other AP's and three college courses! In fact, **I'll be more leery of taking on students who are taking too many other very challenging courses, unless they have already proven that they can handle this type of course load.**

**4. Are you in any very time-consuming outside activities, such as homeschool debate, a sport with daily practices and many 'away' games or meets, many theatre productions, or any activity that may necessitate extensive travel away from a computer?** While debate topics usually fit in very well with history study, the time commitment can be very challenging to handle—you may need to make special arrangements with me during the course so that you will not fall behind. Students can certainly travel during the year, and most do at some point (and I will too at several points!)— just plan ahead, get some work in early before the trip, and post back with the class to tell us the history sites you visited while away! Please explain:

**5. Special Question: I am especially looking for students who like to DISCUSS and DEBATE with fellow students via regular communication on the course wwwboard, as this makes for a much livelier interactive class, and I value having students with a full range of opinions on history issues (it's not much of a discussion if everyone immediately agrees!). Students have shared that the regular discussions on-line were one of the best tools in helping them learn to defend their positions and decide what they really did believe about difficult issues. If you are the sort who prefers to sit back and let others do the 'talking' and thinking, this class may not be for you. Can you \*guarantee\* me that you'll do your best to take part actively and regularly in course discussion on-line?**

YES / NO Explain if necessary....

**6. Does the student have any special learning or physical challenge that I should be aware of (dyslexia, ADHD, vision/hearing challenges, small muscle problems that might necessitate getting permission to use a keyboard for the exam, etc.)?** Note: I have worked with students with varied physical handicaps and also with students with some learning challenges—this will not affect the student's acceptance into the course (if all else points to the student being ready for the course), but will enable me to best meet the student's needs and give appropriate feedback and plan for accommodations if necessary.

**7. STUDENTS: Please include on a separate sheet and then ALSO send it via e-mail to <richmans@pahomeschoolers.com> a minimum 500-word essay description of your history studies to date**, including what areas of history you've studied and learned about in the past few years, what time periods interest you the most, any special research projects or papers you've completed on any history topic, any favorite history books you've read or videos you've seen or places you've visited. Add something about why you want to take this course, and anything else you'd want me and other students in the course to know about you. This statement will eventually go on the course website to introduce you to everyone if you are accepted into the course— so make it personal and fun and let us get to know you. Your essay will also help me to assess your basic writing abilities and readiness for the writing demands of the course, so do your best with this. **It is of paramount importance that you come into the course with strong writing abilities and a good command of English writing conventions.** Evaluating this essay will be an important part of the decision-making process to select the students for the course, as I limit the course to 35 students at most.

**CHECK BOTH:** \_\_\_\_\_ Here's my personal history essay printed out on paper  
\_\_\_\_\_ It's ALSO been sent via e-mail to **richmans@pahomeschoolers.com** headlined "**New APUSH student essay**" [Note: your application is not complete without this essay, so don't say, "I'm working on it now and will get it in soon"... it MUST come in at the same time as your application, and must be written by YOU, the student]

**8. Statement of intent for all students and their parents to sign:**

"I have read the course description on the PA Homeschoolers website and many of the student comments about the course, and the requirements above in this application, and I understand what this course will require from me. I further understand that if I do not participate fully in the course, keeping up with required assignments as best I can (I realize the teacher will be very understanding of real emergencies and computer problems, but a 'busy' day hanging out at the mall is no excuse for missing a deadline!) I may be dismissed from the course. Specifically, once the course starts on August 24, 2011, I will be expected to check in weekly with my assignment log and an update of my studies. If I do not send in my assignments for two consecutive weeks, or contact the instructor to explain why work is late, I will be on probation, and have exactly two weeks to turn in all back assignments. Parents will be contacted at this point, if work is not turned in. Being on probation twice could be grounds for being dismissed from the course, as it would indicate that I just do not have the time or self-discipline to work at the course consistently. I understand that if my work is of consistently poor quality, my parents will be contacted with ideas on how to help me upgrade my study skills so that my performance can improve, so I will be set to be as well-prepared as possible for the AP exam in May.

I will work hard all year to learn as much as I can about US History. I'm ready to go!!!

Signed: student \_\_\_\_\_

Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return this application form via the US Postal Service ASAP to:

**PA Homeschoolers Online**  
**attn: AP US History**  
**105 Richman LN**  
**Kittanning PA 16201-5737**

I will get back to you as soon as possible on your acceptance into the course— and you will be sent a formal letter of acceptance via email, along with further instructions for paying the tuition fees for the course at our site at [www.pahomeschoolers.com](http://www.pahomeschoolers.com)

Sincerely,

Susan Richman, APUSH Course Instructor