

The United States and World Affairs Since World War II

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The staff at Tuscola High is pleased that your child is considering taking one or more *advanced* classes next year. For the AP (Advanced Placement) courses, the college-level work is strenuous, but the rewards for making the commitment & seeing it through are great. You may already know that a passing grade on a College Board AP test in high school allows a student to enter college with credit earned ahead of time. Each year Tuscola has a significant number of students who enter college with various amounts of credit earned through AP courses. To compensate for the increased difficulty of the AP & Advanced courses, AP classes are weighted with two extra points awarded in computing a student's Grade Point Average, while *Advanced* courses are awarded one extra point.

Please understand Tuscola's policies concerning all *advanced* courses. Once students have made their final class selections, *changes will not be made except in cases of administrative decisions*. Thus, both students & parents should be very certain of the commitment they are making. Additionally, students taking AP classes are offered the National Advanced Placement Test for each AP course at a cost of \$89 per test, which a student must take & pass in order to receive college credit. The fee for *each* test will be collected in December. Please understand that class availability will be based on student interested and qualification. Therefore a class may or may not be available and the number of sections will also be determined by this.

Should you have any questions concerning the AP courses or tests, please feel free to contact the Tuscola Counseling Center at 456 – 2408.

I have reviewed the contents of this letter as well as criteria & modifications listed for each AP course to which my child is applying. I understand the AP courses require college level work which is much more rigorous than normal high school courses. I also understand that participation in any AP class requires that my child pass the National Advanced Placement Test in order to receive college credit.

Student (Print Name) _____

Student Signature (Sign Name) _____

Parent/Guardian (Print Name) _____

NAME OF COURSE: The United States and World Affairs Since World War II

GRADE OFFERED: 12

SCHOOL: Tuscola

PREREQUISITES: World History, Civics & Economics, and United States History

CRITERIA FOR ENROLLMENT:

1. A's or B's in previous social studies and English courses
2. A score of 45 or better on PSAT verbal, or 500 or better on SAT verbal
3. Level 3 and 4 performance on Social Studies End-of-Course exams
4. Weighted and unweighted GPA
5. Indication of serious desire to take the course
6. Teacher recommendations
7. Parental approval
8. Completed application

WAYS IN WHICH CONTENT AND INSTRUCTION ARE MODIFIED FOR HIGH ACHIEVING AND GIFTED STUDENTS:

1. Students will be required to do a great deal of outside reading and studying. Some reading assignments will be on the college level and each reading assignment may be covered on any quiz or test, whether or not the material was covered in class. Tests will often contain an essay component.
2. Students will be required to demonstrate independent note-taking ability.
3. Students will be required to weigh evidence in accepting or rejecting historical interpretations.
4. Students will be required to analyze and assess historical materials including their reliability and relevance to a problem.
5. Students should be familiar with the various types of material used in historical studies and how to use each one (i.e. surveys, primary sources, interpretative works, etc.)
6. Students will be required to complete a 7-10 page research paper, focusing on using primary sources, on specific topics relating to the time period.

Applicants need to answer the attached questions to complete the application process for this particular course. Failure to complete this application process will result in the student not being considered for the course.

- I. **TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS:** In the space below, please write the names of the teachers who have taught you in the following courses:

1. United States History: _____
2. Civics & Economics: _____
3. World History: _____
4. 11th grade English: _____
5. 10th grade English: _____
6. 9th grade English: _____

- II. **STUDENT COMMITMENT AND PARENTAL CONSENT:** Please read and sign the statement below, indicating your understanding of the course requirements.

I understand that the United States and World Affairs Since World War II course is an honors-level course, requiring successful completion of honors-level assignments. I understand that reading assignments, writing assignments, and the determination of grades will be much more rigorous than those of normal high school courses.

STUDENT NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

- III. **STUDENT ESSAY:** In a well-written essay, discuss the following questions:

- 1) What is your main reason for wanting to take The United States and World Affairs Since World War II?
- 2) What plans do you have for your education beyond high school?
- 3) What is cheating?
- 4) Why is cheating so rampant in high school AND what should be done to alleviate it?

(You may write or type your responses on a separate sheet of paper and attach it to the application form.)