**AP European History 2018 – 2019 Parent Letter**

**Ms. Meg Tully**

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

 Welcome to sophomore year and AP European History at UHS! I would like to welcome you and your family back from a restful summer break and take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself and AP Euro.

 UHS is my home away from home, and AP Euro is my baby. This is my ninth year teaching, my eigth full year at UHS, and my seventh year teaching this specific class. I have always loved European history and I believe it gives students a strong foundation in their understanding of other histories (world, United States) and the development of the institutions that define Western civilization. However my love for Europe does not surpass my love for Tucson, where I was born, raised and attended college (Go Cats!). I also am a world traveler and organize annual international trips for UHS students with the UHS Travel Club ([www.uhstravelclub.com](http://www.uhstravelclub.com)) .

 AP Euro will be one of your student’s most demanding classes during sophomore year. It is important that both you and your student are aware of several vital components of the course outlined in the syllabus. Also, the College Board has made some significant changes to the course structure and exam as of the 2016 exam**.** This means that old exams/study materials/prep books published for the 2015 exam or prior will not be as relevant or as useful for preparing students for the AP exam in May. Every year I have taught AP Euro my students have maintained a pass rate of 90% or higher and scored far above the national average on the exam. This year I am committed to helping our students continue that success, and I appreciate all the support you can provide at well at home.

Contacting Ms. Tully:

* Conference Period is held every Monday and Tuesday from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. This is the best opportunity for students to approach teachers with questions, concerns, or support.
* I am available by appointment Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday after school. I am not available Wednesdays or Fridays after school due to meetings and personal commitments.
* Please email me with any questions or concerns you may have: Meredith.tully@tusd1.org

Homework Policy:

* Assignments are expected to be turned in on time. An assignment is late if it is not turned in during the student’s class period (i.e assignments submitted at the end of the day will still be marked late).
* Late assignments will be marked down 20% once the deadline has passed. Students have until the end of the unit to submit any late work for 80% credit at most. *Please remember that some credit is better than NO credit.*
* Students will be issued two “Homework Passes” per semester. These passes may be used to excuse the late penalty for an assignment as long as the assignment is turned in within ten school days (two calendar weeks) from the original due date. Unused Homework Passes may be used as 5 points of extra credit (each) a the end of each semester.
* Every effort should be made to turn in hard copies of assignments, however if an assignment must be submitted electronically, please email it to Ms. Tully by the due date.
* Unfortunately students frequently forget to put their name on their work. Students should ALWAYS check the no name basket for their work FIRST if they notice an assignment is missing in Synergy.
* I acknowledge that mistakes may occasionally happen in the Synergy Gradebook. With over a hundred students and dozens of assignments each semester every teacher is bound to make the occasional clerical error. These errors are NEVER intentional, though it is helpful when parents and students check Synergy regularly to ensure that their grades look as they should. If there is a discrepancy or error I am happy to fix it, but I also expect students and parents to be polite and professional with these issues.

Absences/Make-Ups Work:

* It is the student’s responsibility to get any work they may have missed while absent. Extra copies of handouts are available in the classroom and also on the course website.
* If a student is absent for a quiz or an exam then it is their responsibility to schedule a time to make-up the missed quiz or exam as soon as possible. Monday and Tuesday Conference Period and lunch periods will be the most common times available for make-ups.
* It is TUSD Governing Board policy that a student is allowed the number of days they were absent to make up work once they return to school. Therefore, is a student is absent for three days, then they have three days to complete the work they missed. If a student is absent for an exam one day, then they may take one school day before making up the exam (ex: Exam is Wednesday, student returns Thursday, then must take exam on Friday). Failure to make-up work in a timely manner will result in no credit for missed work

Grades:

* Please see the syllabus for a breakdown of the grading system (letter grades based on percentages).
* The grades are based on total points. There are no weighted categories, so please remember that every assignment is valuable.
* There are no retakes on exams or chapter quizzes. However, students will be allowed to correct their exams for a half point per corrected answer. More information about this will be provided in class.
* Grades will be update at least once a week to Synergy, usually on Wednesdays or Thursdays after school. Students and parents are strongly encouraged to check Synergy regularly to monitor progress and also to ensure accuracy.

Materials:

* Students are required to maintain a portfolio of everything they complete in AP Euro. The portfolio is designed not only to teach organizational skills, but also to serve as a study resource for the AP/Final exam at the end of the year.
* The following materials are required for AP Euro. If you have any trouble acquiring any of these supplies, please talk to me ASAP!
	+ 2 or 3 inch three-ring binder (the bigger the better)
	+ 20 tabbed divider sections for binder
	+ College-ruled lined paper
	+ Pens, pencils, highlighters, etc…
* Students should also have a notebook, tablet, or laptop that they can use to take notes with on a regular basis. Students may not use a smartphone to take notes.
* **If you are feeling generous while supply shopping, I am always in need of the following materials:**
	+ **Copy paper**
	+ **Tissues**
	+ **Hand Sanitizer**

Sophomore year is often a year of growth, change and challenge for students. I strongly encourage

parents and families to support their students as much as possible by encouraging a positive attitude, self-advocacy, and self-sufficiency. A negative attitude or excessive complaining can undermine a student’s academic performance and success. It is important to encourage students to ask for help and advocate for themselves, as there are many resources available on campus to support students who are stressed, struggling, or maybe even just shy. This is also a time when students yearn for independence, though they may still need some guidance and support before they are completely self-sufficient, especially in regards to academics. I am here to support both students and their families so please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments you may have.

I would also like to invite you to attend our Open House on Tuesday, August 7th at 6:00 p.m. I look forward to meeting you in classroom LL-7, which is in the basement of the Education Building.

 Sincerely,

Meg Tully