

AP United States History Syllabus

Description of Course

AP United States History is a course designed by the College Board Advanced Placement Program. It is a course that requires a great amount of reading, writing, critical thinking, and independent study

AP United States History will meet every day each trimester for 70 minutes. The vast majority of the reading will take place outside of class. There will be summer work, beginning in August, to prepare for the course. This will include reading John F. Kennedy's *Profiles In Courage*, as well as coverage of the first two chapters of our text. Additionally, there will be morning review sessions during the last few weeks before the AP Exam in May.

The course includes the study of political institutions, social and cultural developments, diplomacy, and economic trends in U.S. history. In addition to studying the history chronologically, we will attempt to understand the broad themes (examples: expansion of democracy, gradual changes in our relationship with the rest of the world, development of and changes within the political parties, etc.) that span US History and link all of the eras.

Goals of Course

- Students will learn to be critical thinkers through the examination of different perspectives of historical events
 - Students will complete a study of Historiography, in which they will compare and contrast writings of different historians on a given subject (era, gender, and political perspective, among other topics, will be considered)
 - Students will use, and analyze, primary documents as a source of historical information, focusing on the differing perspectives of the authors
- Students will demonstrate college-level essay writing
 - Students will write extensive essays dealing on a weekly basis. These essays will focus on the interpretation and analysis of data and historical records
 - Students will write DBQ essays on a monthly basis, and will demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret documents, data, graphs and tables, maps, artwork, cartoons, and primary and secondary sources
 - All essays will be tied to broad historical themes, rather than specific textbook content
 - These will be based upon released sample items from past AP exams, various compilations of primary documents (see *resources*), and well as AP Test Prep books.
- Students will gain exposure to college-level US History curriculum
 - This curriculum will include, but not be limited to use of *The American Pageant*

- This curriculum will examine US History chronologically, as well as thematically.
- Students will complete a study of a particular subject in history and its change over time.(Example: The role and growth of government, the extension of democracy, the increase of involvement in foreign affairs, the changes and development of political parties, etc.)
- Students will take the AP exam in May

Extended Response:

In addition to Multiple Choice questions, the AP Exam also requires extensive written response. Students will be required to answer challenging essay questions on the content covered on a weekly basis. Some of these assignments will include the DBQ (Document Based Questions), which require analysis of various primary documents, data, illustrations, etc.

Course Grading:

- No late work will be accepted.
- Quizzes will be given on each portion of assigned reading. This will occur approximately every other class period. This will be based solely upon reading, prior to class discussion.
- Tests will assess comprehension of multiple broad historical themes and topics after we have covered the material as a class.
- Extended response writing will be assigned approximately once per week (both traditional essays and DBQs)
- A final exam will be given at the end of the 1st and 2nd trimester, and it is expected that each student will take the AP exam during the 3rd trimester.

Resources:

- *The American Pageant*, by Bailey, Kennedy, and Cohen, Houghton Mifflin Company 1998, 11th edition.
- *Retrieving the American Past- 2001 Advanced Placement Edition*, Pearson Custom Publishing, 2001.
- *American Issues: A Documentary Reader*, Glencoe, 1999.
- Selected articles from *American Heritage* magazine
- AP Exam review Books – No specific title is required

Pacing Guide:

The following table is an approximate guide to the pacing. Within each one of these topics and eras, particular attention will be paid to an identification and analysis of the political institutions, social and cultural developments, diplomacy, and economic trends. These themes will help us gain a big picture understanding of US History, and will provide the framework of our discussion and our writing assignments.

Week	Reading	Content
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Summer	Ch 1-2 of Text <i>Profiles In Courage</i>	New World Beginnings (-1769) The Planting of English America (1500-1733)
1	Reviewing, Testing Summer Reading, Cover Ch 3 <i>The Mayflower Compact</i>	Settling the Northern Colonies (1619-1700)
2	Ch 4	America Life in the 17th Century (1607-1692)
3	Ch. 5	Colonial Society on the Eve of Revolution (1700-1775)
4	Ch. 6	The Duel for North America (1608-1763)
5	Ch 7,8 <i>Common Sense- Thomas Paine</i> <i>Declaration of Independence</i>	The Road to Revolution (1763-1775) America Secedes from the Empire (1775-1783)
6	Ch. 9 The Consitution	The Confederation and the Constitution (1776-1790)
7	Ch 10,11 George Washington's Farewell Address	Launching the New Ship of State (1789-1800) The Triumphs and Travails of Jeffersonian Democracy (1800-1812)
8	Ch 12	The Second War for Independence and the Upsurge of Nationalism (1812-1824)
9	Ch 13	The Rise of Jacksonian Democracy (1824-1830)
10	Ch 14,15 <i>On Civil Disobedience</i>	Jacksonian Deocracy at Flood Tide (1830-1840) Forging the National Economy (1790-1860)
11	Ch 16	The Ferment of Reform and Culture (1790-1860)
12	Trimester 1 Exam Week	
13	Ch 17	The South and the Slavery Controversy (1793-1860)
14	Ch 18	Manifest Destiny and its Legacy (1841-1848)
15	Ch 19	Renewing the Sectional Struggle (1848-1854)
16	Ch 20,21 John Brown's letter from Jail	Drifting Toward Disunion (1854-1861) Girding for War (The North and the South)

17	Ch 22 Abe Lincoln' 1st and 2nd Inaugural Addresses	The Furnace of Civil War (1861-1865)
18	Ch 23	The Ordeal of Reconstruction (1865-1877)
19	Ch 24, 25	Politics in the Gilded Age (1869-1889) Industry Comes of Age (1865-1900)
20	Ch 26, 27	America Moves to the City (1865-1900) The Great West and the Agricultural Revolution (1865-1890)
21	Ch 28 W.J. Bryan's <i>Cross of Gold</i>	The Revolt of the Debtor (1889-1900)
22	Ch 29 Selections of Alfred T. Mahan's writings	The Path of Empire (1890-1899)
23	Ch 30, 31 Selections from <i>The Jungle</i>	America on the Word Stage (1899-1909) Progressivism and the Republican Roosevelt (1901-1912)
24	Trimester 2 Exam Week	
25	Ch 32,33	Wilsonian Progressivism at Home and Abroad (1912-1916) The War to End War (1917-1918)
26	Ch 34	American Life in the "Roaring Twenties" (1919-1929)
27	Ch 35, 36	The Politics of Boom and Bust (1920-1932)
28	Ch 37, 38	FDR and the Shadow of War (1933-1941) America in WWII (1941-1945)
29	Ch 39	The Cold War Begins (1945-1952)
30	Ch 40,41 MLK's <i>Letter from the Birmingham Jail</i>	The Eisenhower Era (1952-1960) The Stormy Sixties (1960-1968)
31	Ch 42,43	The Stalemated Seventies (1968-1980) The Resurgence of Conservatism (1980-1996)
32	Start Review for AP Exam	
33	Review for AP Exam – cont.	
34	AP Exam	

* Students should be aware that the course goals (as described above) will be fully incorporated into the preceding topical calendar