

AP US History Syllabus

Course Description

AP U.S. History is a two-semester survey of American History from the age of exploration and discovery to the present. The course is developed as a complete web-based course with multimedia instruction, assignments, discussion and quizzes delivered on-line. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, interpretation of original documents, and historiography.

Prerequisites

Teacher or counselor recommendation and/or a B grade or better in recent social studies course and good writing skills.

Course Goals and/or Major Student Outcomes

The course will prepare students take and successfully pass the College Board's Advanced Placement U.S. History Exam.

Course Objectives

After successful completion of the course of study the student will be able to demonstrate the following skills and knowledge.

- Demonstrate comprehension of a broad body of historical knowledge.
- Express ideas clearly in writing.
- Work with classmates to research an historical issue.
- Interpret and apply data from original documents.
- Identify underrepresented historical viewpoints.
- Write to persuade with evidence.
- Compare and contrast alternate interpretations of an historical figure, event, or trend.
- Explain how an historical event connects to or causes a larger trend or theme.
- Develop essay responses that include a clear, defensible social studies thesis statement and supporting evidence.
- Effectively argue a position on an historical issue.
- Critique and respond to arguments made by others.
- Raise and explore questions about policies, institutions, beliefs, and actions in an historical context.
- Evaluate primary materials, such as historical documents, political cartoons, and first-person narratives.
- Evaluate secondary materials, such as scholarly works or statistical analyses.
- Assess the historical significance and cultural impact of key literary works (e.g. Uncle Tom's Cabin, The Jungle, The Grapes of Wrath).

Course Outline

Semester I

Unit 1: Colonial Period

- Chapter 1: Discovery and Settlement of the New World 1400 – 1500
 - Lesson 1: The First Americans
 - Lesson 2: Europe and the Impulse for Exploration
 - Lesson 3: Spanish Exploration
 - Lesson 4: French Exploration
 - Lesson 5: English Settlements

Chapter 2: English Colonies 1600 – 1650
Lesson 6: Massachusetts Bay
Lesson 7: Middle and Southern Colonies

Chapter 3: American Society Takes Shape 1650 – 1763
Lesson 8: Population Growth
Lesson 9: Cultural Changes
Lesson 10: French and Indian Wars or 7 Years War: 1754-1763

Unit 2: American Revolution

Chapter 4: Road to Revolution 1763 – 1775
Lesson 11: Imperial Reorganization of 1763
Lesson 12: Philosophy of American Revolution

Chapter 5: The American Revolution 1775 – 1783
Lesson 13: Declaration of Independence
Lesson 14: The War
Lesson 15: Articles of Confederation
Lesson 16: Challenges to the Confederation

Unit 3: Republican Experiment and Federalist Era

Chapter 6: The Constitution and the New Republic 1787 – 1800
Lesson 17: Philadelphia Convention
Lesson 18: Federalists versus Anti-Federalists
Lesson 19: George Washington
Lesson 20: John Adams

Unit 4: Republicans in Power

Chapter 7: Jeffersonian Republicanism 1800 – 1816
Lesson 21: Jefferson as President
Lesson 22: War of 1812

Chapter 8: Nationalism and Economic Expansion 1816 – 1826
Lesson 23: James Monroe
Lesson 24: Economic Revolution
Lesson 25: King Cotton
Lesson 26: Westward Expansion

Unit 5: Jacksonian Era

Chapter 9: Age of Jackson 1828 – 1848
Lesson 27: Democracy and the “common man”
Lesson 28: Nullification Crisis
Lesson 29: The Bank of the United States
Lesson 30: Indian Removal

Unit 6: Manifest Destiny and War

Chapter 11: American Culture and Reform 1800 – 1860
Lesson 31: Transcendentalists, Religion, and Utopian Movements
Lesson 32: Reform Crusades

Chapter 10: Territorial Expansion and Sectional Issues 1820 – 1860
Lesson 33: Manifest Destiny
Lesson 34: Decade of Crisis
Lesson 35: The Approaching War

Unit 7: Civil War and Reconstruction

Chapter 12: Civil War, 1861 – 1865

Lesson 36: The Union and the South

Lesson 37: Abolition of Slavery

Lesson 38: Effects of War on Society

Chapter 13: Reconstruction, 1865 – 1877

Lesson 39: Presidential and Congressional plans

Lesson 40: End to Reconstruction

Semester II**Unit 8: Growth and Transformation, 1865 – 1900**

Chapter 14: Changing Landscape, 1865 – 1900

Lesson 41: The South

Lesson 42: Focus on the West

Lesson 43: Confrontations with Native Americans

Lesson 44: Mining, farming, and cattle frontiers

Lesson 45: Minorities in the West

Chapter 15: Gilded Age, 1877 – 1900

Lesson 46: Corruption

Lesson 47: Consumer Culture

Lesson 48: Rise of unions

Chapter 16: Urban Nation, 1871 – 1900

Lesson 49: Growth of cities

Lesson 50: Appeal of city life

Lesson 51: Squalid side of urban life

Chapter 17: Reform, 1890s

Lesson 52: Agrarian Revolt

Lesson 53: The Progressive Impulse

Lesson 54: The Progressive Presidents

Unit 9: Trouble at Home and Abroad, 1900 – 1929

Chapter 18: Imperialism, 1900 - 1920

Lesson 55: Roosevelt

Lesson 56: Taft & Woodrow Wilson

Chapter 19: World War I and Roaring 20s, 1914 – 1929

Lesson 57: US Entry

Lesson 58: Peace Conference

Lesson 59: Social Tensions

Unit 10: Era of Franklin Roosevelt, 1933 – 1945

Chapter 20: Great Depression, 1929 – 1941

Lesson 60: Causes and Consequences

Lesson 61: New Deal

Chapter 21: World War II, 1941 – 1945

Lesson 62: The Failure of Diplomacy and the War

Lesson 63: Home front

Lesson 64: Wartime Diplomatic conferences

Lesson 65: Yalta: Origin of the Cold War

Unit 11: Cold War, 1945 – 1980s

- Chapter 22: HST and IKE, 1945 – 1960
 - Lesson 66: End of War
 - Lesson 67: Containment
 - Lesson 68: Conflict in Asia
 - Lesson 69: Red Scare – again
- Chapter 23: Eisenhower, 1953 – 1960
 - Lesson 70: Internal improvements
 - Lesson 71: Foreign Policy

Unit 12: Turbulent Decades, 1960 – 1980

- Chapter 24: Civil Rights Movement, 1954 – 1963
 - Lesson 72: Challenging Jim Crow
 - Lesson 73: Consequences of CRM

- Chapter 25: Rock and Roll Is Here to Stay, 1950s – 1960s
 - Lesson 74: Baby Boom
 - Lesson 75: Material culture

- Chapter 26: Imperial Presidency, 1961 – 1980s
 - Lesson 76: JFK
 - Lesson 77: LBJ
 - Lesson 78: RMN or “Tricky Dick”
 - Lesson 79: Ford, Carter, and Reagan
 - Lesson 80: The new danger: Terrorism

Required Text:

The American Pageant: A History of the Republic, 12th Edition
Thomas A. Bailey, David M. Kennedy, Lizabeth Cohen
Houghton Mifflin Company

Supplemental Texts:

After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection, 4th Edition
James West Davidson, Mark H. Lytle
McGraw-Hill Higher Education

Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong, 1st Edition
James W. Loewen
Simon & Schuster (Touchstone)

A People's History of the United States: 1492-Present, 1st Edition
Howard Zinn
HarperCollins Publishers Inc. (2003)

Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in American History, Volume 1, 10th Edition
Larry Madaras, James M. SoRelle
Publisher: McGraw-Hill / Dushkin

Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in American History, Volume 2, 10th Edition
Larry Madaras, James M. SoRelle
McGraw-Hill / Dushkin

Key Assignments (online exercises, quizzes, problem and labs on the following topics):

The course assignments are organized by chapter with each semester containing of 13 chapters. Each chapter contains the following assignments:

- 1) Readings – Required readings for the week from the primary textbook, *The American Pageant*, as well as a list of additional readings from supplemental texts. Reading assignments cover all topics in the course outline.
- 2) Lessons – Two or more on-line multimedia lessons that provide instruction cover all topics in the course outline.
- 3) Writing Assignments – There is a single writing assignment listed for each chapter.
- 4) Assessments – There is a multiple-choice assessment for each Chapter. They typically contain 18-25 questions and a styled after the questions used on the College Board's Advanced Placement U. S. History exam. These are designed to be self-tests to help students assess their understanding of the material and focus their study.
- 5) Discussion Questions – There is a discussion question assigned for each chapter that designed to drive class discussion about the current chapter as well as introduce concepts in the upcoming chapter. Discussions are managed by a on-line discussion board software and student participation is required.

Assessment Methods and/or Tools

There is a midterm exam for each semester that contains 15 multiple-choice questions and one essay question (modeled after the College Board Exam's FRQs) and a cumulative final exam with 30 multiple-choice questions and one essay question (modeled after the College Board Exam's DBQs)