

Advanced Placement United States History Syllabus

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Course Description:

APUSH is a full year survey course in United States History from its origins to 1990. The course seeks to explore major issues, turning points, and people in U.S. history. The introductory college level course will challenge students to develop their historical skills through reading, speaking, writing, debating, and presenting. There are high expectations for this course: students should expect a minimum of five hours of homework per week. The course will prepare students for the AP Examination in United States history in May.

Course Goals: Students will be able to:

1. Analyze documents, interpretive readings, text materials using sophisticated comprehension skills.
2. Write solid historical essays in response to Document –based as well as open response test questions.
3. Acquire and recall a wide variety of information on major events, individuals, and eras of American history.

Course Materials:

The Course's basic texts are: *The American Pageant* and *The American Spirit Volume I & II* by David M. Kennedy and Thomas A. Bailey. *The American Pageant's* Advanced Placement Resource teacher's resource guide provides comprehensive teacher support material for the textbook with an AP focus. *The American Spirit* is a documents collection that is fully compatible with its companion text, *The American Pageant*. These documents include a variety of sources for student analysis. These documents emphasize the interaction of social, economic, and cultural developments with political history. The material will enable students to interrogate the past by developing a critical attitude in examining other kinds of historical evidence. *The American Pageant* also includes a document-based questions practice booklet by John Belohlavek and Steve Kramer to provide students with essential thesis and essay writing skills to respond to the DBQ section of the AP Exam. *The Overhead Transparencies* collection provides additional experience in working with maps, charts, and statistical tables.

Class Assignments:

Includes class participation, required textbook, primary and secondary source readings, chapter outlines, papers, essays, quizzes, and exams. Students are responsible for reading outlining, and completing chapter questions as well as the assigned activities on each of the readings and primary documents. Students are assessed frequently by reviewing responses to chapter questions, checking chapter outlines, reading and primary document analysis as well as performance on tests or papers.

First Semester Syllabus: September, 2007 to January 2008

Part 1 Founding the New Nation: Chapters 1-8

Key Discussion Topics: Economic life in New England and Chesapeake Bay, the role of religion in New England Society, relations between the different colonies and the American Revolution. Text: Chapters 1-8.

Themes:

- The Emergence of American Cultural traits and contributing influences.
- Inception and emergence of regional patterns.
- Colonists reevaluate their relationship with Great Britain and each other.
- War and Revolution

Sept. 4-7 Introduction: New World Beginnings Text: Chapter 1.
Review of Chapter outline, summary and analysis of readings and Multiple Choice test

Sept.10-21 Colonization and Settlement: (1600-1763). Text: Chapters 2-5.
Review of Chapter Outlines, summaries and analysis of readings and Objective Test on Chapters 2-5.

Sept. 24-Oct 5 War and Revolution (1754-1783) Text: Chapters 6-8.
Review of Chapter outlines, summary and analysis of readings
Essay Exam on the Causes, Practices and Effects of the French and Indian War and the American Revolution.

Part 2 Building the New Nation 1776-1860. Chapters 9-15

Key Discussion Topics: The Confederation and the Constitution, early Presidencies, War of 1812, Rise of Democracy, Establishing the National Economy. Political Reforms and carving out a unique American culture. Text: Chapters 9-15.
American Spirit:

Themes:

- Creating the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights
- Growth and rivalry of political parties
- Issues and conflicts between federal power and state's rights
- Strengthening the Judicial Branch
- Foundations of United States foreign policy and foreign policy conflicts

Oct 8-Oct 17 The Constitution and the New Nation 1783-1800 Chapters 9-10.
Review of Chapter Outlines, summary and analysis of readings
Essay exam.

Themes

- Social, Political and Economic aspects of expansionism
- Emergence of and impact of reform movements on the American character

Oct 22-Nov14 Expansion and Reform 1801-1861 Text: Chapters 11-15.
Paper: Cherokee Removal 2-4 pages
Paper: Reform movements, key individuals 2-4 pages.
Essay Test: Jackson
Objective Test on 11-15

Part 3 Testing the New Nation 1820-1877 Chapters 16-22

Key Discussion Topics: Manifest Destiny, the Mexican War, Sectionalism, Nativism, the Slave System, Civil War and Reconstruction.
Text: Chapters 16-22.

Themes

- Nationalism
- Expansionism
- Conflict

Nov 15- Nov 21. Manifest Destiny and The Mexican War 1840-1848 Text: Chapter 17.
Essay: American expansionism and Manifest Destiny
Review of Chapter Outlines, summaries and analysis of readings and Oral Presentations choice of topics
Test: Short response essay

Themes

- The Peculiar Institution
- Sectionalism: Growth and creation of internal divisions
- Secession and war
- The struggle for equality

Nov-26-Dec.21 Slavery, Sectionalism, The Civil War and Reconstruction 1850-1877
Text: Chapters 16, 18-22.
Review Chapter Outlines, summary and analysis of readings and
Video: The Civil War Ken Burns (Causes and Surrender)
DBQ: Slavery and the Civil War, 1846-1860
Objective Test

Part 4 Forging an Industrial Society 1869-1909 Chapters 23-27

Key Discussion Topics: Political Paralysis in the Gilded Age, Industry Comes of Age, Urban Development, The Closing of the Frontier and Empire and Expansion Chapters 23-27.

Themes

- Political Alignment and corruption in the Gilded Age
- Government's role in economic growth and regulation
- Social, Economic, and Political impact of industrialization.

Jan. 7-Jan 15 The Gilded Age, Industrial Development, and Urban Growth 1865-1900 Text: Chapters 23-25
Review of Chapter Outlines, summary and analysis of readings and DBQ: Reactions to Jim Crow, 1880-1910
Objective Test

Themes

- Native American Relations
- Cultural Diversity, Migration and Conflict
- Government's Role in the Economy
- Third Parties: Role/ Impact

Jan 16-18 Closing of the Frontier and the Agricultural Revolution 1865-1896
Text: Chapter 26
Historian: Ray Billington on Frontier Democracy
Review of Chapter Outlines, summaries and analysis of readings and Video: The West Ken Burns (excerpts)
Take home essay exam.

Themes

- U.S. Imperialism
- The Changing Role of the United States in world affairs.

Jan 21- Jan 24 Empire and Expansion 1890-1909 Text: Chapter 27.
Review of Chapter Outlines, summaries and analysis of readings and Objective Test

Second Semester Syllabus January to June 2008

Part 5 Struggling for Justice at Home and Abroad 1901-1945 Chapters 28-36

Key Discussion Topics: Progressivism and Roosevelt, Wilson and World War I, The Roaring Twenties, The Depression, Roosevelt and the New Deal, and World War II. Chapters 28-36.

Themes

- Immigration and Urbanization
- Patrician Reformers
- Teddy Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson: Conservatives as Progressives

Jan 28-Feb 6 Progressivism and Social Injustice 1900-1916 Text: Chapter 28-29.
Review of Chapter Outlines
Essay exam

Themes

- From Isolationism to World Power
- Political, Economic, Social Impact of World War I.
- Cultural Conflicts: native versus foreign; rural vs. urban.
- Revolution in manners and morals.

Feb 7- Feb 21 World War I and the Roaring Twenties 1914-1929 Text: Chapter 30-31.
Video: The Great War: The American Experience (excerpts)
Oral Presentations: Causes, Practices and Effects of War
Essay: Examine the effect the Committee on Public Information's propaganda campaign had on America's war effort.
Review of Chapter Outlines, examination of readings and documents
Multiple Choice Exam

Themes

- The role of Government in society and the economy
- Political realignment
- Human suffering and response to the Great Depression
- United States Response to Aggression
- United States war mobilization effort and social and political impact on society
- United States wartime military strategy, diplomacy and cooperation

Feb 22- Mar 14 The Great Depression and World War II. 1929-1945 Text: Chapters 32-35.
Video: After the Crash The American Experience (excerpts)
Video: Zoot Suit Riots The American Experience
Oral Presentations: Selected Topics Domestic and Foreign Affairs
Review of Chapter Outlines, summaries and analysis of readings and
DBQ: Business Values in the 1920s assignment

DBQ: Position of Women 1890-1925 (1997) assignment
Multiple Choice Exam

Part 6 Making Modern America 1945 to the Present Chapters 36-42

Key Discussion Topics: The Cold War, The Eisenhower Era, The Stormy 1960s, The Stalemated Seventies, The Post-Cold War Era, and New Century Issues Chapters 37-42.

Themes

- Breakdown of Wartime Alliance and Adoption of Containment
- Postwar economic boom and emergence of consumer culture
- Cold War confrontation
- Struggle for civil liberties and civil rights
- War on Poverty and Great Society Programs
- Counterculture and anti-establishment movements
- The Vietnam disaster

Mar 17- Mar. 31. The Postwar America: 1945-1970's Text: Chapters 36-39
DBQ: Truman and the Cold War, 1945-1953
DBQ: Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, 1964-68
Video: The Fog of War
Review of Chapter Outlines, summaries and analysis of readings and Multiple Choice Exam
Research Project Assignment—June due date.

Themes

- Human Rights versus strategic self-interest in policy formation
- Collapse of Communism
- Emergence of the political conservative right
- Interrelationship of foreign policy and economic stability in a global economy
- Transformation from an “industrial age” to an “information age”

Apr.7-Apr. 30. Contemporary American History : 1968-2004. Text: Chapters 39-42
Review of Chapter Outlines, summaries and analysis of readings
Research paper abstract, outline and source list due
PBS: The American Experience: *Jimmy Carter*
Oral Presentations:
Multiple Choice Exam

April 28- May 7 Review for Advanced Placement United States History Exam

May 11 Advance Placement United States History Exam (TBD date)

May 14-June 10 Research Project and Oral Presentation Topics

June 11 Final Essay Exam

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