

Advanced Placement® ** US History

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

AP US History focuses on the development of analytical skills, along with a deep factual knowledge of the problems and themes, to enable students to critically interpret our nation's history. Students assess historical primary and secondary sources, weighing the evidence presented, to arrive at informed conclusions. Students learn to think like historians: evaluating sources and interpretations, developing thesis statements, supporting their interpretations with evidence, and communicating their conclusions persuasively. Students gain an appreciation for how historic events have shaped our modern political, social, cultural, and economic life. The course provides opportunities for guided inquiry and student-centered learning to foster critical thinking skills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Read, understand, and interpret a variety of primary and secondary sources.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in explaining, analyzing and evaluating problems and themes in US history.
3. Apply the concepts and procedures of historical inquiry to understanding US history.
4. Communicate effectively in writing interpretations and conclusions based on historical evidence.

PREREQUISITES: Successful completion of honors or advanced level high-school social studies or history course

COURSE LENGTH: Two Semesters

REQUIRED TEXT: *The American Pageant*, 14/E Kennedy | ©2010 | Cengage ISBN: 0547166540

COURSE OUTLINE:

Unit I: A New World

Section A – The First Americans
Section B – The Columbian Exchange
Section C – Colonial Societies
Section D – The English Colonies
Section D – The Colonies Expand

Unit II: Revolution and Independence

Section A – Life in the Colonies
Section B – The American Revolution
Section C – A Republican Model
Section D – The Young Republic

Unit III: The Growing Republic

Section A – Defining and Defending a New Nation
Section B – Rise of a National Economy
Section C – Mass Democracy

Unit IV: A House Divided

Section A – The Nation Expands
Section B – An Impending Crisis
Section C – Civil War and Reconstruction

Unit V: A New Order

Section A – The Gilded Age
Section B – The Rise of Big Business
Section C – A Nation on the Move

Semester 1 Exam

Unit VI: Becoming a Modern Nation

Section A – Progressivism
Section B – America Turns Outward
Section C – A Pluralistic Society

Unit VII: Domestic and Global Challenges

Section A – The Great Depression
Section B – Fighting WWII
Section C – The Home Front



Unit VIII: A World Superpower

Section A – A Global Leader

Section B – Expanding Equity

Section C – Increased Prosperity

Unit IX: A New Century

Section A – Competing Values

Section B – A New Role in the World
Community

Section C – Increased Globalization

Unit X: Understanding American History

Section A – Identity

Section B – Work, Exchange and Technology

Section C – Peopling

Section D – Politics and Power

Section E – America in the World

Section F – Environment and Geography

Section G – Ideals, Beliefs and Culture

Semester 2 Exam

Preparing for the AP US History Exam