

AP US History Syllabus

Advanced Placement United States History

I. Overview of the Course:

Advanced Placement (AP) United States History is designed to offer students the equivalent of an introductory college level course in United States history. You will learn the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U. S. History. Students successfully completing this course will . learn how to assess historical materials and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship . develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions based on an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format.

II. Course Objectives (Curriculum Requirements) Themes:

AP US History highlights twelve themes that will help you think conceptually and focus on historical change over time:

1. American diversity
2. American identity
3. culture
4. demographic changes
5. economic transformations
6. environment
7. globalization
8. politics and citizenship
9. reform
10. religion
11. slavery and its legacies in North America
12. war and diplomacy.

III. Skills:

AP US History addresses specific academic skills in addition to content knowledge. Students will develop the following skills:

1. analyzing and interpreting primary sources including documentary material, maps, statistical tables, and pictorial and graphic evidence of historical events
2. analyzing evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship
3. note-taking from printed materials, lectures, and discussions
4. writing analytical and interpretive essays such as document based questions and thematic essays
5. writing analytical and research papers
6. expressing ideas clearly and precisely
7. citing sources and crediting the ideas of others. Students will be given frequent practice in each of these skills.

IV. Topics:

1. Pre-Columbian Societies
2. Transatlantic Encounters and Colonial Beginnings, 1492-1690
3. Colonial North America, 1690-1754
4. American Revolutionary Era, 1754-1789
5. Early Republic, 1789-1815
6. Transformation of the Economy and Society in Antebellum America
7. Transformation of Politics in Antebellum America
8. Religion, Reform, and Renaissance in Antebellum America
9. Territorial Expansion and Manifest Destiny
10. The Crisis of the Union
11. Civil War
12. Reconstruction

13. Origins of the New South
14. Development of the West in the Late Nineteenth Century
15. Industrial America in the Late Nineteenth Century
16. Urban Society in the Late Nineteenth Century
17. Populism and Progressivism
18. Emergence of America as a World Power
19. New Era: 1920s
20. Great Depression and the New Deal
21. Second World War
22. Home Front During the War
23. United States and the Early Cold War
24. 1950s
25. Turbulent 1960s
26. Politics and Economics at the End of the Twentieth Century
27. Society and Culture at the End of the Twentieth Century
28. United States in the Post-Cold War World VA

V. Standards of Learning:

This course will also cover the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) for VA and US History. The focus of the VA SOLs is the study of the historical development of American ideas and institutions. These standards emphasize concepts in civics, economics, and geography and a basic knowledge of American culture through a chronological survey of major issues, movements, people, and events in United States and VA history. They require that you use historical and geographical analysis skills to explore the events, people, and ideas that fostered our national identity.

VI. Course Materials Required

Textbook John Faragher, Mari Jo Buhle, Daniel Czitrom and Susan H. Armitage, *Out of Many: A History of the American People*. (Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2003). Other

Materials A variety of other readings and primary and secondary sources will be used during the course such as • documentary material, maps, statistical tables, and pictorial and graphic evidence of historical events • writing excerpts and essays from historians representing different schools of thought. The teacher will provide these materials or students will have access to them via the school's media center or Internet.

VII. Grading

Your academic progress will be evaluated through a variety of assessments. Marking Period (Quarter) Grades will be based on: • Tests and Quarterly Assessments • Quizzes • Class Activities • Writing assignments including DBQs and thematic essays • Projects/Papers.

The Semester Grade will be calculated as follows: 40% = First Quarter (9 Weeks) 40% = Second Quarter (9 Weeks) 20% = Exam.

The Advanced Placement Exam is administered in May to all students enrolled in AP US History. If you perform well, you may earn college credits and be exempt from taking a US History course in college.

The VA Standards of Learning (SOL) End-of-Course Test for VA & US History will also be administered in May. It consists of 70 multiple-choice questions. Students who pass the test will receive a verified credit towards high school graduation.

VIII. Expectations

Pages of Reading PER CLASS Hours of study PER CLASS Tests, essays, papers, PER QUARTER Major Projects 15 – 30 1 – 3 • 3 unit tests • at least 2 writing assignments – analytical and interpretive essays such as a DBQ or thematic essay • 9 quizzes (vocabulary, homework, etc.) • Quarterly Assessments 1 major project per quarter incorporating historical research skills and proper citation

IX. Course Outline

AP US History is a full academic year course (two semesters) and is organized into four quarters that are each nine weeks long. Each unit will include the following:

1. discussions of and writing about related historiography • how interpretations of events have changed over time, • how the issues of one time period have had an impact on the experiences and decisions of subsequent generations, • how such reevaluations of the past continue to shape the way historians see the world today
2. analysis and interpretation of primary sources including documentary material, maps, statistical tables, and pictorial and graphic evidence of historical events • how to categorize documents • how to recognize bias in documents, • how to obtain historical evidence from documents

3. writing analytical and interpretive essays such as document based questions and thematic essays. Please note the following abbreviation in the course outline: SOL refers to the VA Standards of Learning, which are notated by VUS.

X. Quarter 1 VA Standards (SOL) & AP Outline Topics Topics and/or Strands Time Estimate

VUS 2, 3 AP Outline Topics 1 – 3

Unit 1: Exploration and Settlement

Theme: The settlement and colonization of the Americas by different European powers and its impact on Native American populations.

Content

- A. Contrasting colonization of the Americas: Britain, France, and Spain
- B. Native American societies and the European impact
- C. Comparing the three British Colonial regions: North, Middle and South
- D. Development of slavery in the America

Assignments and Assessments

A. Readings

- 1. Textbook: Chapters 1 – 5
- 2. outside readings of 7 – 10 pages that include primary and secondary source materials related to the unit topic

B. Writing Assignment • analytical and interpretive essays such as a DBQ or thematic essay related to unit topic

C. Other Assignment

D. Assessments

- 1. Vocabulary lists and Quizzes
- 2. Reading Quizzes
- 3. Unit Test

3 weeks, 8 extended block sessions

VUS 4, 5 AP Outline Topic 4

Unit 2: American Revolution and Constitution

Theme: From colonies to country: the emergence of an American identity

Content

A. Road to Revolution: From 1754 – 1775

B. Philosophical justification for American independence

C. War for Independence

D. Lessons of Revolution and subsequent governmental organizations 1. Articles of Confederation 2. Constitution

Assignments and Assessments

A. Readings

1. Textbook: Chapters 6 – 7

2. outside readings of 7 – 10 pages primary and secondary source materials related to the unit topic

B. Writing Assignment • analytical and interpretive essays such as a DBQ or thematic essay related to unit topic

C. Other Assignment

D. Assessments

1. Vocabulary lists and Quizzes

2. Reading Quizzes

3. Unit Test

2.5 weeks, 6 extended block sessions

VUS 6a AP Outline Topic 5

Unit 3: The Early National Period until 1824

Theme: The development of an American identity by way of social, political, and economic conflicts in the Early Republic

Content

- A. Hamilton vs. Jefferson
- B. Conflicts between the three branches of government
- C. Changing role of women, Native Americans, and African Americans
- D. Development of U.S. foreign policy and the War of 1812
- E. Territorial expansion and its impact

Assignments and Assessments

A. Readings

- 1. Textbook: Chapters 10 – 14
- 2. outside readings of 7 – 10 pages primary and secondary source materials related to the unit topic

B. Writing Assignment • analytical and interpretive essays such as a DBQ or thematic essay related to unit topic

C. Other Assignment

D. Assessments

- 1. Vocabulary lists and Quizzes
- 2. Reading Quizzes
- 3. Unit Test

2.5 weeks 7 extended block sessions

Review and Quarterly Assessment 1 week, 2 extended block sessions

XI. Quarter 2 VA Standards (SOL) & AP Outline Topics Topics and/or Strands Time Estimate VUS 6a, b AP Outline Topics 6 – 9

Unit 4: Antebellum America (1825 – 1850)

Theme: Territorial expansion's effect on nationalism, sectionalism, and democracy

Content

- A. Antebellum Reform movements
- B. Early Industrial, Transportation, and Market Revolutions
- C. Territorial acquisitions and its effects
- D. Successes and limitations of Jacksonian democracy

Assignments and Assessments

A. Readings

- 1. Textbook: Chapters 10 – 14
- 2. outside readings of 7 – 10 pages primary and secondary source materials related to the unit topic

B. Writing Assignment • analytical and interpretive essays such as a DBQ or thematic essay related to unit topic

C. Other Assignment

D. Assessments

- 1. Vocabulary lists and Quizzes
- 2. Reading Quizzes
- 3. Unit Test

2.5 weeks 6 extended block sessions

VUS 6c, 7 AP Outline Topics 10 – 13

Unit 5: Civil War and Reconstruction (1850 – 1877)

Theme: Union divided and the nation created

Content

- A. Political arguments over slavery

B. Civil War and its political, social, and economic impact

C. Transformation of the African-American experience from slavery to freedmen

D. Aspirations and failures of Reconstruction on a national and state level and the origins of the New South

Assignments and Assessments

A. Readings

1. Textbook: Chapters 15 – 17

2. outside readings of 7 – 10 pages primary and secondary source materials related to the unit topic

B. Writing Assignment • analytical and interpretive essays such as a DBQ or thematic essay related to unit topic

C. Other Assignment

D. Assessments

1. Vocabulary lists and Quizzes

2. Reading Quizzes

3. Unit Test

3 weeks 7 extended block sessions

VUS 8a – d, AP Outline Topics 14 - 16, 17

Unit 6: Industrial Growth (1877 – 1898)

Theme: Territorial and economic expansion at the end of the 19th Century Content

A. Industrial and economic development through Railroads

B. Competition for the West

C. Era of Conflicts:

1. Employer vs. employee

2. Old immigration vs. new immigration

3. Laissez Faire vs. government regulation
4. Gold vs. silver / William Jennings Bryan

Assignments and Assessments

A. Readings

1. Textbook: Chapters 18 – 19
2. outside readings of 7 – 10 pages primary and secondary source materials related to the unit topic

B. Writing Assignment • analytical and interpretive essays such as a DBQ or thematic essay related to unit topic

C. Other Assignment

D. Assessments

1. Vocabulary lists and Quizzes
2. Reading Quizzes
3. Unit Test

2.5 weeks 6 extended block sessions

Review and Semester Exam 1 day, 2 extended block sessions

XII. Quarter 3 VA Standards (SOL) & AP Outline Topics Topics and/or Strands Time Estimate VUS 9a, b AP Outline Topic 18

Unit 7: Emergence of America as a World Power (1898 to 1920)

Theme: Transformation of U.S. foreign and domestic policy in the early 20th Century Content

- A. Territorial acquisitions and conflicts over territorial acquisitions
- B. Origins and impacts of Progressive reforms:
 1. Civil Rights
 2. Women's suffrage
 3. Political reforms

C. World War I and its impacts / Treaty of Versailles

Assignments and Assessments

A. Readings

1. Textbook: Chapters 20 – 22

2. outside readings of 7 – 10 pages primary and secondary source materials related to the unit topic

B. Writing Assignment • analytical and interpretive essays such as a DBQ or thematic essay related to unit topic

C. Other Assignment

D. Assessments

1. Vocabulary lists and Quizzes

2. Reading Quizzes

3. Unit Test

2 weeks 5 extended block lessons

VUS 9c AP Outline Topics 19, 20

Unit 8: Boom and Bust (1920-1939)

Theme: Changing role of government in the national economy

Content

A. Conflicts between traditionalism and modernism

B. Business of America is business

C. Increased national government involvement in the economy as a result of the Great Depression

Assignments and Assessments

A. Readings

1. Textbook: Chapters 23 – 24

2. outside readings of 7 – 10 pages primary and secondary source materials related to the unit topic

B. Writing Assignment • analytical and interpretive essays such as a DBQ or thematic essay related to unit topic

C. Other Assignment

D. Assessments

1. Vocabulary lists and Quizzes

2. Reading Quizzes

3. Unit Test

2 weeks 5 block extended sessions

VUS 10, 11 12a, 13 AP Outline Topics 21 – 24

Unit 9: World War II and the Origins of the Cold War (1939 – 1953)

Theme: Rise of U.S. influence in global affairs

Content

A. U.S. foreign policy in 1930's

B. World War II: Military strategies and impact on U.S. homefront

C. Domestic and foreign impacts of World War II

D. Origins of the Cold War

Assignments and Assessments

A. Readings

1. Textbook: Chapters 25 – 26

2. outside readings of 7 – 10 pages primary and secondary source materials related to the unit topic

B. Writing Assignment • analytical and interpretive essays such as a DBQ or thematic essay related to unit topic

C. Other Assignment

D. Assessments

1. Vocabulary lists and Quizzes

2. Reading Quizzes

3. Unit Test

3.5 weeks 9 extended block sessions Note: Time adjusted as necessary based on scheduled date for AP & SOL tests

Review and Quarterly Assessment 1 week, 2 extended block sessions

XIII. Quarter 4 VA Standards (SOL) & AP Outline Topics Topics and/or Strands Time Estimate VUS 12b – d, 13 AP Outline Topics 25, 26

Unit 10: Turbulent times (1953-1974)

Theme: New initiatives at home and abroad Content

A. Early Civil Rights movement—Brown vs. Board of Education

B. Conformity and conflict during the 1950's

C. Civil War in Vietnam and reaction at home

D. New domestic and foreign initiatives of the 1960's (Civil Rights)

Assignments and Assessments

A. Readings

1. Textbook: Chapters 27 – 29

2. outside readings of 7 – 10 pages primary and secondary source materials related to the unit topic

B. Writing Assignment • analytical and interpretive essays such as a DBQ or thematic essay related to unit topic

C. Other Assignment

D. Assessments

1. Vocabulary lists and Quizzes

2. Reading Quizzes

3. Unit Test

2 weeks 5 extended block sessions Note: Time adjusted as necessary based on scheduled date for AP & SOL tests

VUS 14 AP Outline Topics 27, 28

Unit 11: Modern America (1974 to the present)

Theme: American political and economic ascendance at the end of the Cold War

Content

A. Globalization and its effect on the U.S. economy

B. Advances in new technology

C. Rise of the New Right

D. Fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War

Assignments and Assessments

A. Readings

1. Textbook: Chapters 30 – 31

2. outside readings of 7 – 10 pages primary and secondary source materials related to the unit topic

B. Writing Assignment • analytical and interpretive essays such as a DBQ or thematic essay related to unit topic

C. Other Assignment

D. Assessments

1. Vocabulary lists and Quizzes

2. Reading Quizzes

3. Unit Test

2 weeks 5 extended block sessions Note: Time adjusted as necessary based on scheduled date for AP & SOL tests Review and AP Test & SOL Test 1 to 2 weeks, 2 to 5 extended block sessions (based on AP & SOL test dates)

VUS 1 – 14 Various AP Outline Topics

Unit 12: Historical Inquiry Culminating Research Assignment that will include • the analysis of primary and secondary sources such as documentary material, maps, statistical tables, and pictorial and graphic evidence of historical events • how interpretations of events have changed over time, • how the issues of one time period have had an impact on the experiences and decisions of subsequent generations.

2 to 3 weeks, 5 to 7 extended block sessions (based on AP & SOL test date)

Semester Exam 1 day, 1 extended block session