

Syllabus & Schedule

Advanced Placement (AP) United States History

Course Description

The AP United States History course is designed to give students a rigorous college level exposure to United States history. Students will use a thematic approach to study the economic, political and social themes through out United States history. Success in the Advanced Placement environment depends on the commitment of the individual student. Those students who meet these high expectations will have the opportunity to earn college credit (depending on the college) by taking the AP United States History exam.

Readings

Reading is the essential element for student success in AP United States History. Students will be expected to keep up with a rigorous schedule of chapters from the primary text, as well as supplementary reading and primary source materials. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions. Students will use the study guide to the text (*The American Pageant – 12th Addition*) to organize and review the major themes contained in the text. Additional readings will come from *The American Spirit* (Kennedy – Sixth Edition). Readings will help students develop a deeper understanding of events and themes in American History.

Writing

Writing is the second major component of the AP United States History Course. Students will learn how to evaluate and incorporate themes of United States history. Historical oriented essays will be a cornerstone of each unit. Students will use essay writing to debate themes of United States history. Essays will be graded using a rigorous rubric system. High level writing skills will greatly assist students on the AP United States History Exam.

Primary Sources & the DBQ

Students will use primary resources in American history to write Document Based Questions (DBQ). The DBQ is an essay that incorporates a variety of primary source materials. Students use the documents to take a position on their essay. Students will write a minimum of ten DBQ essays throughout the course.

Unit Exams

The final component of the course will be Unit Exams. Students will use reading materials, class discussions, and the text study guide to prepare for each Unit Exam. Exams will cover multiple chapters and themes. A writing component will accompany each Unit Exam.

Thematic Approach

The AP United States course will be taught using a thematic approach. Within the structure of each unit, students will focus on the political, economic, and social themes of each period. An understanding of the many facets of American history will give the student a holistic view of our nation's rich past.

Texts

The American Pageant (12th Edition) – Primary text

The American Pageant / Study Guide (12th Edition)

The American Spirit (6th Edition) – Additional Readings

Grading

Students will face a rigorous college level exposure to United States history. Students will need to keep up with all readings, essays, and class projects. Assignments will not be accepted late. Students with an approved absence will be expected to keep up with the course schedule. Grades will not be “curved”. A 10-point scale will be used.

Exams	100 points each	60 % total grade
Essays	25 points each	20% total grade
DBQ	50 points each	10% total grade
Participation	50 points each Unit	10% total grade

Assignment Schedule & Parent Contact

Students and parents can view the current monthly schedule on Homeworkknow.com. Please use this site to email me directly. I will respond by the end of the business day. Students and parents will each sign a course expectations “contract” at the beginning of the AP United States History course.

Students are expected to take the AP United States History exam. Success on the AP Exam will result in the potential for college credit (depending on the college).

Course Schedule

UNIT 1- American Beginnings

“New World Beginnings”

American Pageant, Chapter 1

American Spirit Readings

“The Planting of English America”

American Pageant, Chapter 2

American Spirit Readings

“The Settling of the Northern Colonies”

American Pageant, Chapter 3

American Spirit Readings

EXAM Chapters 1-3 & Essays

UNIT 2 - Colonial America

"Colonial America Before 1750"

American Pageant, Chapters 4-5

Essay Question: Economics in the Colonies

EXAM Chapters 4-5

UNIT 3 - The American Revolution

"The Duel for North America"

American Pageant, Chapter 6

"The Coming of the Revolution"

American Pageant, Chapter 7
American Spirit. Readings to be assigned

Essay: *Causes of the American Revolution*

"America Secedes From the Empire"

American Pageant, Chapter 8
American Spirit Readings (TBA)

Essay: Understanding the Declaration of Independence

EXAM Chapters 7-8

UNIT 4 – Building the New Nation

"The Confederation and the Constitution"

American Pageant, Chapter 9

Essay: *Madison's Masterpiece*

"Launching the New Ship of State"

American Pageant, Chapter 10
American Spirit Readings (TBA)

Essay: *Economics in the Young Republic*

EXAM Chapters 9-10

Unit 5 – Jefferson to Jackson

"The Triumph and Travails of Jeffersonian Democracy"

American Pageant, Chapter 11

Essay: *The Revolution of 1800*

"The Second War for Independence and the Upsurge of Nationalism"

American Pageant, Chapter 12

American Spirit Readings

DBQ: *American Nationalism & Western Expansion*

EXAM on Chapters 11-12

UNIT 6 – The Nation Expands

"The Rise of a Mass Democracy"

American Pageant, Chapter 13

American Spirit Readings

DBQ: *Politics in the 1820's*

"Forging the National Economy"

American Pageant, Chapter 14

American Spirit Readings

Essay: *Immigration & Cultural Change*

"The Ferment of Reform and Culture"

American Pageant, Chapter 15

American Spirit Readings

Essay: *Women & the Roles of Women's Rights*

EXAM on Chapters 13 -15

UNIT 7 – The Path to Civil War

"The South and the Slavery Controversy"

American Pageant, Chapter 16

American Spirit Readings

Essay: *The Economy of Slavery*

"Manifest Destiny and Its Legacy"

American Pageant, Chapter 17
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *Texas*

"Renewing the Sectional Struggle"

American Pageant, Chapter 18
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *Popular Sovereignty*

"Drifting Towards Disunion, 1854-1861"

American Pageant, Chapter, 19
American Spirit Readings

DBQ: *The Collapse of the Union*

EXAM 16 - 19

UNIT 8: The Civil War

"Girding for War: The North and the South, 1861-1865"

American Pageant, Chapter 20
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *Economic & Political Factors of the Civil War*

"The Furnace of Civil War, 1861-1865"

American Pageant, Chapter 21
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *The Legacy of the Civil War*

"The Ordeal of Reconstruction"

American Pageant, Chapter 22
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *The Social, Economic & Political Challenges of Reconstruction*

EXAM Chapters 20 - 22

MIDTERM EXAM

SECOND TERM

UNIT 9 – The Expansion of Industry & Cities

"Politics of the Gilded Age"

American Pageant, Chapter 23
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *The Gilded Age*

"Industry Comes of Age, 1865-1900"

American Pageant, Chapter 24
American Spirit Readings

DBQ: *Railroads Change America*

"America Moves to the City, 1865-1900"

American Pageant, Chapter 25
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *Cities Change America*

EXAM Chapters 23 - 25

UNIT 10 – The end of the 19th Century

"The Great West"

American Pageant, Chapter 26
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *The Conquest of the Indians*

"The Path of Empire"

American Pageant, Chapter 27
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *American Expansion*

EXAM Chapters 26 - 27

UNIT 11: The Turn of the Century (1899-1945)

"America on the World Stage"

American Pageant, Chapter 28
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *The Big Stick* (T. Roosevelt)

“Progressivism & the Republican Roosevelt”

American Pageant, Chapter 29
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *The Politics of Progressivism*

"Wilsonian Progressivism at Home and Abroad"

American Pageant, Chapter 30
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *The War in Europe & American Neutrality*

EXAM Chapters 28 - 30

UNIT 12 – War & Depression (1917 to 1940)

"The War to End War"

American Pageant, Chapter 31
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *How Warfare & the World Changed*

“American Life in the Roaring Twenties”

American Pageant, Chapter 32
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *The Red Scare*

"The Politics of Boom and Bust"

American Pageant, Chapter 33
American Spirit Readings

ESSAY: *Root Causes of the Great Depression*

"The Great Depression and the New Deal"

American Pageant, Chapter 34
American Spirit Readings

DBQ: *New Deal Recovery*

EXAM Chapters 31 - 34

UNIT 13 – America & World War II (1941 – 1945)

"Franklin Roosevelt and the Shadow of War"

American Pageant, Chapter 35
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *The End of Neutrality*

"America in World War II"

American Pageant, Chapter 36
American Spirit Readings

DBQ: War Propaganda

UNIT 14 - The Cold War

"The Cold War Begins"

American Pageant, Chapter 37
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *Evolution of a Cold War*

"The Eisenhower Era, 1952-1960"

American Pageant, Chapter 38
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *Civil Rights*

"The Stormy Sixties" 1960-1968

American Pageant, Chapter 39

DBQ: *Kennedy & Johnson*

'The Stalemate of the Seventies' 1968-1980

American Pageant, Chapter 40
American Spirit Readings

Essay: *Vietnam*

EXAM Chapters 37 – 40

UNIT 15 – Reagan to the 21st Century

"The Resurgence of Conservatism"

American Pageant, Chapter 41

DBQ: *The Reagan Legacy*

"The American People Face a New Century"

American Pageant, Chapter 42

DBQ: Challenges of the 21st Century

EXAM Chapters 41 & 42

REVIEW FOR AP EXAM

AP EXAM _____