

High School

Advanced Placement U.S. History

Aim of the Course

This course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States History. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands on them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials – their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance – and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. This course thus develops the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format.

Course Description

This course provides a survey of the history of the United States from the colonial era through modern times. Areas of concentration include historical, political, and economic history coupled with an intense study of cultural and intellectual institutions and their development. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed in this challenging course. Students will be prepared throughout the year to take the nationally administered proficiency examination from which college credit may be attained.

Texts

Kennedy, David M., Lizabeth Cohen, and Thomas Bailey. *The American Pageant*. 13th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2006.

Belmonte, Laura. *Speaking of America*. 1st ed. Belmont: Thomson/Wadworth Co., 2005.

Oates, Stephen and Charles J. Errico. *Portrait of America*. 9th ed. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Co., 2007.

Assignments

Assignments will be posted on the board on a weekly basis. Students are EXPECTED to keep up with the readings from the assigned texts and articles. Students should also be prepared to discuss the material on the due date. Quality class participation is a factor in your overall semester grade. Participation will be noted at various intervals during the course, usually during roundtable discussions. All assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of class on the due date. NO LATE PAPERS will be accepted! Assignments make up a major portion of a student's grade, so it is to your advantage to complete them.

Assessment

Grading is based on a combination of the following:

- Daily assignments, homework, participation 50%
- Various research projects 15%
- Unit Quizzes 15%
- Semester Exam 20%

Quizzes will be given at the end of each unit and will consist of multiple-choice questions. Exams will be in the form of free-response essay questions. These exams will be administered at the end of each semester and will count as 20% of your semester grade.

Advanced Placement Exam

The AP History Exam is given around mid-May. Registration for the exam takes place in February. The cost is approximately \$85. Although the exam is not required for this class, it is highly recommended and may earn college credit if a passing score is achieved on the exam. More information will be distributed on this as the year progresses.

Extra Credit - Movie Nights

Periodically through this course, there will be opportunities to gain extra credit. This will be in the form of a “movie night.” Students will view a historical film and write a two-page typed review. There may be other opportunities for extra credit in this class, but the total number of points will not exceed 5% of the total points for a quarter. Remember, extra credit is a *privilege* and needs to be earned. The amount of extra credit offered throughout a quarter is at the discretion of the instructor.

A.P. U.S. History

Course Outline – Semester 1

Unit 1: Forging a New Republic (1763-1820)

Required Reading:

- *The American Pageant* – Chapters 7-12
- *Speaking of America* – Chapters 4/5
 1. 4.7 – Thomas Jefferson on Slavery and Race
 2. 5.2 – Thomas Jefferson, First Inaugural Address
 3. 5.13 – James Tallmadge Denounces Slavery in Missouri
 4. 5.14 – The Monroe Doctrine
- *Portrait of America*, Vol.1, Chapter 6 – “Citizen Ben: A Worldly American’s Seven Great Virtues”; Chapter 8 – “Thomas Jefferson and the Meanings of Liberty”

Key Discussion Topics: English motivation for colonizing America; relationship between the colonists and Native Americans; compare and contrast colonial society in New England and South; effects of the French and Indian War; government struggles under the Articles of Confederation; formation of the Constitution; Jefferson vs. Hamilton; domestic and foreign policy issues under the Washington and Adams presidencies; the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions; the Louisiana Purchase; causes and effects of the War of 1812; role of Native Americans during the war; The Era of Good Feelings; Henry Clay’s American System, the Missouri Compromise controversy; the Monroe Doctrine

Major Assignments and Activities: Roundtable discussions: “What kind of person was Benjamin Franklin?”, and “How shall we judge Thomas Jefferson, who wrote ‘all *men* are created equal’, yet owned slaves?”

Unit 2: Growth and Disunion (1820-1860)

Required Reading:

- *The American Pageant* – Chapters 13-19
- *Speaking of America* – Chapters 6-10
 1. 6.4 – The Cherokees Resist Removal
 2. 6.5 – Andrew Jackson’s Second Annual Message to Congress
 3. 7.6 – Frances Trollope, *Domestic Manners of the Americans*
 4. 7.7 – Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*
 5. 9.5 – John O’Sullivan, “Annexation”
 6. 9.6 – Thomas Corwin Opposes the Mexican War
 7. 10.4 – The Know-Nothing Party Platform
 8. 10.5 – Charles Sumner on “Bleeding Kansas”
 9. 10.6 – *Dred Scott v. Sandford*
 10. 10.8 – The Lincoln-Douglas Debates
- *Portrait of America* – Vol.1, Chapter 11 – “The Personal Side of a Developing People”
- Articles, “Andrew Jackson, Democracy, and States’ Rights” & “Polk’s Manifest Destiny”

Key Discussion Topics: the rise of “New Democracy”; The Elections of 1824 and 1832; the effects of the “Tariff of Abominations”; the birth of political parties and campaigning; Jackson’s war on the National Bank; the Indian Removal; the concept of nullification; effects of the Industrial Revolution on the United

States; social reform and Dorothea Dix; goals of the women's rights movement; manifest destiny; the slavery issue; causes and effects of the Mexican-American War; the Wilmot Proviso; Compromise of 1850; effects of the Kansas-Nebraska Act; *Dred Scott* case; Lincoln-Douglas debates; formation of the Confederacy

Major Assignments and Activities: Library research and presentations over selected topics within the Age of Jackson, In-class free-response essay over the Age of Jackson, Roundtable discussion: "What was life like for the typical American during the early to mid-19th century?", Civil War Arson Activity, Introduction to DBQ writing and in-class practice with 1987 released exam

Unit 3: Civil War and Reconstruction (1861-1877)

Required Reading:

- *The American Pageant* – Chapters 20-22
- *Speaking of America* – Chapters 11/12
 1. 11.2 – Horace Greeley & Abraham Lincoln, Slavery and the Union
 2. 11.3 – Jefferson Davis Responds to the Emancipation Proclamation
 3. 11.9 – Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address
 4. 11.12 – Abraham Lincoln, Second Inaugural Address
 5. 12.3 – The Louisiana Black Code
 6. 12.5 – Thaddeus Stevens Attacks Presidential Reconstruction
 7. 12.6 – President Andrew Johnson Opposes Black Suffrage
 8. 12.11 – Ku Klux Klan During Reconstruction
 9. James McPherson, "We Were in Earnest"
- Article, "The Nation Turns a Crooked Corner – Hayes vs. Tilden, 1876"
- Book excerpt, "Racial Hierarchy and Illicit Sex" by Martha Hodes in *White Women, Black Men*

Key Discussion Topics: North vs. South during the Civil War; significant Civil War battles; Lincoln's push for emancipation; the assassination of President Lincoln; African-American life in the post-bellum period; Reconstruction politics; the impeachment of President Johnson; Black Codes; the Compromise of 1877

Major Assignments and Activities: Scaffolded Reading Activity using Election of 1876 article, In-class DBQ practice with the 1996 released exam

MOVIE NIGHT: "Glory"

Unit 4: The Gilded Age (1865-1900)

Required Reading:

- *The American Pageant* – Chapters 23-26
- *Speaking of America* – Chapters 14-16
 1. 14.1 – Selling to the Masses
 2. 14.4 – Dr. John B. Whitaker on Factory Worker Health
 3. 14.5 – John D. Rockefeller on the Success of Standard Oil
 4. 14.7 – Andrew Carnegie, "The Gospel of Wealth"
 5. 15.6 – Florida Jim Crow Laws
 6. 15.7 – Booker T. Washington, The Atlanta Exposition Address

7. 15.8 – W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*
 8. 16.6 – The Omaha Platform of the Populist Party
- Article, “My God Sir – The President is Doomed!”
 - Book excerpt, “Hellhounds” in *Without Sanctuary – Lynching Photography in the United States*

Key Discussion Topics: Economic trends of the late 19th century; the 2nd Industrial Revolution and new innovations; positive and negative effects of the railroad industry; Social Darwinism; political issues of the Gilded Age; management techniques; Carnegie, Rockefeller and Morgan; Carnegie’s “Gospel of Wealth”; the labor movement; federal response to labor unrest; the “New Immigration”; Turn-of-the-century American society; Compare goals of Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois; the *Plessy v. Ferguson* case; role of lynchings in American society; The Populist Party; The Election of 1896

Major Assignments and Activities: Roundtable discussion: “Captains of Industry or Robber Barons?”, Gilded Age political cartoon analysis, Immigration research activity; analysis of lynching photographs; literary allusion of the Gilded Age wkst

Unit 5: The Progressive Era (1900-1920)

Required Reading:

- *The American Pageant* – Chapters 28/29
- *Speaking of America* – Chapter 17
 1. 17.3 – Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*
 2. 17.4 – Mother Jones Attacks Child Labor
 3. 17.5 – Jane Addams on the Fight Against Poverty
 4. 17.6 – The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire
 5. 17.7 – The NAACP Attacks *The Birth of a Nation*
- *Portrait of America* – Vol.2, Chapter 10 – “Theodore Roosevelt, President”
- Article, “*The Birth of a Nation*”

Key Discussion Topics: The goals of progressivism; muckrakers; Eugene V. Debs and socialism; Progressive Era legislation and reform; Teddy Roosevelt’s “Square Deal”; Woodrow Wilson’s “New Freedom”; The Election of 1912; the impact of the film, *The Birth of a Nation*; Jack Johnson; the Springfield Race Riot

Major Assignments and Activities: Roundtable discussion: “What kind of president was TR?”, document analysis over Woodrow Wilson’s administration, in-class free response essay over the Progressive Era, Internet research on Progressive Era race relations, Progressive obituary project

Unit 6: Onto the World Stage (1898-1920)

Required Reading:

- *The American Pageant* – Chapters 27/30
- *Speaking of America* – Chapter 18
 1. 18.6 – On the Western Front
 2. 18.9 – Henry Cabot Lodge Opposes the League of Nations

Key Discussion Topics: Factors influencing American imperialism; causes and effects of the Spanish-American War; the Open Door Policy; TR and the Russo-Japanese War; Comparing foreign policies of TR, Taft, and Wilson; areas of U.S. dominance at the dawn of the 20th century; long & short term causes of

World War I; new weapons used in the first World War; examples of American efforts on the home front; the Treaty of Versailles; Senate rejection of the League of Nations

Major Assignments and Activities: Simulated debate over American annexation of the Philippines; In-class DBQ practice with 1994 released exam, World War I document analysis group activity; political cartoon analysis over the League of Nations

MOVIE NIGHT: “*The Ghost and the Darkness*”

Unit 7: Boom & Bust: The Roaring '20s & Great Depression (1920-1939)

Required Reading:

- *The American Pageant* – Chapters 31-33
- *Speaking of America* – Chapters 19/20
 1. 19.4 –The Scopes Trial
 2. 19.5 – College Students on “Petting”
 3. 19.6 – Hiram Evans, “The Klan’s Fight for Americanism”
 4. 20.3 – The Great Depression in Rural America
 5. 20.4 – Franklin D. Roosevelt, First Inaugural Address
 6. 20.5 – Huey Long Explains the “Share Our Wealth” Plan
 7. Alan Brinkley, “The New Deal Experiments”
- Articles, “Women in the 1920s Ku Klux Klan” & “The Bonus Army March – Herbert Hoover’s View”
- Book excerpts, “Revolution in Morals and Manners” by Frederick Allen in *Only Yesterday* & “President” by Hugh Gallagher in *FDR’s Splendid Deception*

Key Discussion Topics: Issues in post-WWI America; “Normalcy”; Political, economic, and social trends of the 1920s; The Ku Klux Klan; Prohibition and its effects; Al Capone; Conservative vs. liberal forces; The rise of consumerism; Henry Ford and the automobile industry; the Harlem Renaissance; the “new woman” and flappers; the emerging sexual revolution; The Scopes “Monkey” Trial; Literary criticism; Culture heroes of the decade; The stock market crash; origins of the Depression; human suffering and response; “rugged individualism vs. direct relief”; causes & effects of the Dust Bowl; Relief, recovery & reform; FDR and the “Hundred Days”; alphabet agencies; New Deal criticisms; court-packing; impact and effectiveness of Roosevelt’s policies.

Major Assignments and Activities: Roundtable discussions: “Why did the Ku Klux Klan return in the 1920s?”, “What factors caused a revolution in manners and morals during the 1920s?”, Group document analysis over the Ku Klux Klan and 1920s advertisements, In-class DBQ practice using the 1986 released exam, 1920s group newspaper project, Internet research on the Bonus Army March, Roundtable discussions: “How did FDR gain the trust of the American people?”, “How did the New Deal affect American society – politically, economically, and socially?”

MOVIE NIGHT: “*Inherit the Wind*”

SEMESTER 1 EXAM

End of First Semester

A.P. U.S. History Course Outline – Semester 2

Unit 8: World War II (1939-1945)

Required Reading:

- *The American Pageant* – Chapters 34/35
- *Speaking of America* – Chapter 21
 1. 21.3 – Franklin D. Roosevelt, Declaration of War Message
 2. 21.4 – Propaganda on the Home Front
- *Portrait of America* – Vol. 2, Chapter 21: “Hiroshima: The Victims”
- Articles, “Children & the Holocaust” & “Hitler’s Children”

Key Discussion Topics: Rise of the dictators; the Nazi “final solution” & the horrors of the Holocaust; origins of U.S. entry into war; European & Pacific theaters; the home front; wartime conferences; the atomic bomb

Major Assignments and Activities: Group work and discussion: “What did the U.S. really know about the Holocaust?”, *Schindler’s List* film analysis, Internet document analysis over the use of the atomic bomb, Roundtable discussion: “Was Truman justified in dropping the atomic bomb?”, WWII artifact analysis group activity

Unit 9: Postwar America: Domestic Dreams & Atomic Nightmares (1945-1960)

Required Reading:

- *The American Pageant* – Chapters 36/37
- *Speaking of America* – Chapters 22/23
 1. 22.1 – George Kennan, The Long Telegram
 2. 22.2 – The Truman Doctrine
 3. 22.3 – Secretary of State George C. Marshall Offers Aid to Europe
 4. 22.7 – The Lavender Scare
 5. 22.8 – A Guide for Surviving Nuclear War
 6. 23.1 – Dr. Benjamin Spock Advises Parents
 7. 23.4 – Malvina Reynolds, Little Boxes
 8. 23.7 – The Southern Manifesto
 9. 23.8 – Dwight D. Eisenhower on Desegregation in Little Rock
 10. 23.11 – Two Versions of “Shake Rattle, and Roll”
 11. Stephanie Coontz, “American Families in the 1950s”
- Articles, “Origins of the Cold War”, “Broader Ribbons Across the Land – The Creation of America’s Interstate Highway System”, & “Crisis in Little Rock”

- Book excerpt, “Post-Election Analysis” by Gary Donaldson in *Truman Defeats Dewey*

Key Discussion Topics: Origins of the Cold War; containment; Election of 1948; causes and effects of the Korean War; McCarthyism; The Rosenbergs; foreign policy – Truman vs. Eisenhower; bomb shelters & civil defense; launching of *Sputnik*; the U-2 Incident; suburbia; advertising and the rise of consumerism; media and popular culture; rock-n-roll; the civil rights movement – *Brown vs. Board of Education*, the lynching of Emmett Till, school integration & the Little Rock crisis, response of the Eisenhower administration to civil rights

Major Assignments and Activities: Roundtable discussion: “How did Truman pull off an election miracle in 1948?”, document analysis over Korean War & McCarthyism; Civil defense artifact analysis activity; In-class DBQ practice with the 2001 released exam; 1950s advertising activity, Roundtable discussions: “What was life like for the typical American family in the 1950s?”, “What impact did television have on American society?”, document analysis over the Emmett Till lynching; group document analysis activity over the Little Rock integration crisis

MOVIE NIGHT: “*October Sky*”

Unit 10: 1960s Hopes & Dreams: Camelot & The Great Society (1961-1968)

Required Reading:

- *The American Pageant* – Chapter 38
- *Speaking of America* – Chapter 24
 1. 24.1 – John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address
 2. 24.8 – Lyndon Johnson Proposes the “Great Society”
- Articles, “How Good of a President was JFK?”, “JFK’s Health Secrets”, “How Great was the Great Society?”
- Book excerpt, “Background to Crisis” by Mark White in *Missiles in Cuba*

Key Discussion Topics: The Election of 1960; Kennedy/Nixon debates; the Bay of Pigs; the Cuban Missile Crisis; Kennedy’s civil rights policy; the JFK assassination; LBJ’s goals for the Great Society

Major Assignments and Activities: Internet research on the Cuban Missile Crisis, document analysis over the civil rights movement, document analysis and artifact analysis over the JFK assassination, take-home essay over JFK’s presidency Roundtable discussion: “How great was the Great Society?”,

MOVIE NIGHT: “*Ghosts of Mississippi*”

Unit 11: Protest & Turmoil: Vietnam, & Watergate (1964-1974)

Required Reading:

- *The American Pageant* – Chapters 38/39
- *Speaking of America* – Chapter 24
 1. 24.15 – Richard Nixon Accepts the Republican Nomination for President
- Articles, “That Bitch of a War – LBJ & Vietnam”, “The My Lai Massacre”
- Book excerpt, “The War Within” by David Farber in *The Age of Great Dreams*

Key Discussion Topics: the Gulf of Tonkin Incident & military escalation in Vietnam, impact of the Vietnam war on society; civil rights acts; the counter-culture; Election of 1968; Nixon's "New Federalism"; the Kent State Massacre; the Watergate scandal

Major Assignments and Activities: Roundtable discussions: "Was Vietnam LBJ's war?", 1968 artifact activity, Watergate document analysis, in-class DBQ practice with student-created DBQ

STATE TESTING & A.P. EXAM*

SEMESTER 2 EXAM

* The schedule for A.P. exam review will be distributed at the end of April. Review will consist of both in-class and outside review with practice of multiple-choice, free-response, and DBQ questions.

End of Second Semester