

A.P. United States History

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This year long course combines a general survey of American history with in-depth analysis of important events, themes, and issues from 1607 to the present . The course is structured around the themes given in the College Board's *United States History Course Description*. These themes include: American This course meets the American history requirement and is offered to 10th grade students.

The course will be structured around the themes given in the AP Course Description. Emphasis will be given to the following themes: American Diversity, American Identity, Culture, Demographic Changes, Economic Transformations, Environment, Globalization, Politics and Citizenship, Reform, Religion, Slavery and Its Legacies in North America, War and Diplomacy.

American Diversity—The diversity of the American people and the relationship among different groups. The roles of race, class, ethnicity, and gender in the history of the United States.

1. Explain the relationship between the early inhabitants of the Americas including the Indian empires in Mesoamerica, the Southwest, and the Mississippi Valley.
2. Explore the relationship between Indian cultures of North America and Europeans at the time of European contact.
3. Analyze the role of women in the late 18th and early 19th century, including the concepts of Republican Motherhood and the Cult of Domesticity.
4. Explain the role of African Americans in politics, education and the economy during the Reconstruction years.
5. Trace the government policy toward American Indians in the late 19th century.
6. Explain the role of gender, race, and ethnicity in the far West during the late 19th century.
7. Explain the impact of migration and immigration in the late 19th century.
8. Assess the role of women and African-Americans in contributing to Progressive reform.
9. Trace the struggle for equality among African Americans and women in the 1920s.
10. Explain the contributions of women to the home front during World War II.

American Identity—Views of the American national character and ideas about American exceptionalism. Recognizing regional differences with the context of what it means to be an American.

1. Explain the regional differences between colonial New England, the Mid-Atlantic region, and the South.
2. Analyze the importance of the 18th century back country (frontier).
3. Analyze pro-and antislavery arguments and conflicts in both the north and south.
4. Analyze the development of the New South's agricultural, manufacturing, and industrial systems after the Civil War.

Culture—Diverse individual and collective expressions through literature, art, philosophy, music, theater, and film throughout U.S. history. Popular culture and the dimensions of cultural conflict within American society.

1. Explain the literary and artistic characteristics of the "American Renaissance" of the 19th century.
2. Trace intellectual and cultural movements of the late 19th century as well as popular entertainment.
3. Describe science, the arts, and entertainment in the era of modernism (1920s).
4. Analyze the cultural response to 1950s consensus and conformity.

Demographic Changes—Changes in birth, marriage, and death rates; life expectancy and family patterns; population size and density. The economic, social, and political effects of immigration, internal migration, and migration networks.

1. Explain the effects of population growth and immigration on Colonial North America.
2. Trace the expansion of settlers into the trans-Appalachian West and the American Indian resistance.
3. Analyze the nativist reaction on immigration in Antebellum America.
4. Explore the forced removal of American Indians to the trans-Mississippi West.
5. Explain the effect of western migration on cultural interaction.
6. Explain the factors which caused urbanization and the problems of the city in the late 19th century.
7. Trace demographic changes at the end of the twentieth century, including:
 - a. The surge of immigration after 1965
 - b. Sunbelt migration
 - c. The graying of America

Economic Transformations—Changes in trade, commerce, and technology across time. The effects of capitalist development, labor and unions, and consumerism.

1. Explore the Transformation of the Economy in antebellum America:
 - a. The transportation revolution and creation of a national market economy
 - b. The beginnings of industrialization and changes in social and class structures
2. Analyze the impact of railroads on western expansion and economic development and the various competitors for the West: miners, ranchers, homesteaders, and American Indians.
3. Trace the development of industrial America in the late 19th century including:
 - a. The move toward corporate consolidation of industry
 - b. The effects of technological development on the worker and workplace
 - c. The rise of the labor movement
 - d. The influence of corporate power on national politics
 - e. The various philosophies that accompanied the industrial age, e.g., Social Darwinism and the Social Gospel
4. Trace the development of the consumer economy of the 1920s.
5. Explain the causes of the Great Depression and the response of the Hoover administration to the economically difficult times.
6. Analyze the impact of the New Deal on the American economic and social structure.
7. Analyze the development of the affluent society and “the other America” in the 1950s.
8. Explore changes in the American economy at the end of the 20th century:
 - a. The energy crisis
 - b. Deindustrialization
 - c. The service economy

Environment—Ideas about the consumption and conservation of natural resources. The impact of population growth, industrialization, pollution, and urban and suburban expansion.

1. Analyze the environmental impacts of western settlement in the late 19th century.
2. Analyze the environmental impacts of urbanization in the late 19th century.
3. Analyze environmental issues of the Post-Cold War world in a global context.
4. Assess the impact of modern revolutions in biotechnology, mass communication, and computers.

Globalization—Engagement with the rest of the world from the fifteenth century to the present: colonialism, mercantilism, global hegemony, development of markets, imperialism, cultural exchange.

1. Explore Spanish and French empires in North America and their relationship with the British colonies.
2. Explain the 17th and 18th century Transatlantic trade and the growth of seaports.
3. Trace the development of imperial policy in British North America and colonial resistance to this policy.
4. Explain the impact of 19th century territorial acquisitions on the relationship between the U.S. and other nations.
5. Analyze the role of globalization on the late 20th century and early 21st century American economy.
6. Assess the threats of terrorism in the Post-Cold War world—domestic and foreign.

Politics and Citizenship—Colonial and revolutionary legacies, American political traditions, growth of democracy, and the development of the modern state. Defining citizenship; struggles for civil rights.

1. Explain resistance to colonial authority, including Bacon’s Rebellion, the Glorious Revolution, and the Pueblo Revolt.
2. Explore the development of state constitutions during and after the American Revolution.
3. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.
4. The federal Constitution
 - a. Examine the place of compromise in the creation of the Constitution.
 - b. Describe the various features of the federal Constitution.
 - c. Trace the ratification debate (Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists).
5. Explain the role of Washington and Hamilton in the shaping of the national government.
6. Trace the development of early political parties (Federalists and Republicans).
7. Analyze the significance of Jefferson’s presidency on the development of the nation.
8. Analyze the transformation of politics in antebellum America including:
 - a. The emergence of the second party system in the 1820s
 - b. Federal authority and its opponents: judicial federalism, the Bank war, tariff controversy, and states’ rights debates
 - c. Jacksonian democracy and its successes and limitations

9. Assess the 1850s as a decade of crisis through key events and concepts, such as:
 - a. The Compromise of 1850
 - b. Popular sovereignty
 - c. The Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - d. The emergence of the Republican Party
 - e. The election of Abraham Lincoln and the crisis of secession
10. Reconstruction:
 - a. Compare and contrast Presidential and Radical Reconstruction.
 - b. Analyze the aspirations, achievements and failures of Southern state governments.
 - c. Explain the importance of the Compromise of 1877.
 - d. Assess the political, social, and economic impacts of Reconstruction.
11. Analyze the politics of segregation: Jim Crow and disfranchisement.
12. Explain the importance of Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson to the Progressive movement.
13. Trace the development of Republican politics in the 1920s (Harding, Coolidge, Hoover)
14. Analyze the changing relationship of the federal government to the American people as a result of the New Deal.
 - a. Expansion of government
 - b. Impact on Labor Unions
 - c. Critics of the New Deal
15. Analyze the expansion of the federal government from the New Frontier to the Great Society.
16. Trace the development of politics at the end of the 20th Century including:
 - a. The election of 1968 and the "Silent Majority"
 - b. Richard Nixon's presidency—Vietnam, China, Watergate
 - c. The New Right and the Reagan Revolution
 - d. The End of the Cold War

Reform—Diverse movements focusing on a broad range of issues, including anti-slavery, education, labor, temperance, women's rights, civil rights, gay rights, war, public health, and government.

1. Describe the social reforms of the 19th century, including temperance, abolition, education, utopian communes, and women's rights.
2. Explain the sources of agrarian discontent and assess reform proposals of the Populists in the late 19th century.
3. Explain the origins of Progressive reform at the municipal, state, and national level.
4. Explain the factor which led to the emergence of the modern civil rights movement.
5. Analyze the impact of the civil rights movement on women's rights, gay rights, and the struggle for equality faced by other minority groups.

Religion—The variety of religious beliefs and practices in America from prehistory to the twenty-first century; influence of religion on politics, economics, and society.

1. Analyze religious diversity in the American colonies.
2. Explain the role of the Enlightenment and Great Awakening on colonial society.
3. Explain the role of the 2nd Great Awakening on reform in Antebellum America.
4. Analyze the role of religious fundamentalism on the culture of the 1920s.

Slavery and Its Legacies in North America—Systems of slave labor and other forms of unfree labor (e.g., indentured servitude, contract labor) in Native American societies, the Atlantic World, and the American South and West. The economics of slavery and its racial dimensions. Patterns of resistance and the long-term economic, political, and social effects of slavery.

1. Analyze the various forms of servitude and slavery in the 17th century Chesapeake, and the eventual growth of plantation economies and slave societies in the 18th century.
2. Trace the growth of slavery and free Black communities in the early part of the 19th century.
3. Analyze the slavery in the cotton South:
 - a. Relationship between planters and slaves
 - b. Patterns of resistance
 - c. The economic, political, and social effects of slavery

War and Diplomacy—Armed conflict from the precolonial period to the twenty-first century; impact of war on American foreign policy and on politics, economy, and society.

1. Analyze the impact of the French and Indian War on the relationship between Britain and the American colonists.
2. Explain the causes and effects of the War for Independence.
3. Analyze the consequences of the War of 1812.
4. Explain the causes and effects of the Mexican War.
5. The Civil War
 - a. Explain the social, political, and economic effects of the war in the North, South, and West.
 - b. Analyze the military strategies pursued and the role of foreign diplomacy.
 - c. Analyze mobilization, resources, and internal dissent in the North and South.
 - d. Explain the role of African-Americans in the war.
6. Trace late 19th century and early 20th century American imperialism.

7. The First World War
 - a. Analyze the reasons for American neutrality from 1914-1917.
 - b. Describe the First World War at home and abroad.
 - c. Explain the outcomes of the Treaty of Versailles.
 - d. Analyze the impact of the war on the American society and economy in the postwar years.

8. The Second World War
 - a. Trace the rise of fascism and militarism in Japan, Italy, and Germany.
 - b. Explain the reasons for American neutrality in the years before Pearl Harbor.
 - c. Analyze the effects of difficulties of fighting a multifront war.
 - d. Analyze wartime diplomacy, war aims, and wartime conferences.
 - e. Describe wartime mobilization of the economy.
 - f. Analyze urban migration and demographic changes during the war.
 - g. Assess the curbing of civil liberties and civil rights during wartime.
 - h. Trace the expansion of government power during the war.

9. The Cold War
 - a. Explain the origins of the Cold War.
 - b. Analyze Truman’s policy of containment.
 - c. Analyze American involvement in Asia, Latin America, and Europe and the antiwar movement which developed in the 1960s.
 - d. Explain the diplomatic strategies and policies of the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations.
 - e. Assess the internal “Red” threat and the impact of the Cold War on American society.

Social Studies Skills and Methods

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| <i>Thinking and Organizing</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the credibility of sources by considering the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The qualifications and reputation of the writer b. Agreement with other credible sources c. Recognition of stereotypes d. Accuracy and consistency of sources e. The circumstances in which the author prepared the source 2. Critique evidence used to support a thesis. |
| <i>Communicating Information</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Analyze one or more issues and present a persuasive argument to defend a position. |

Inquiry, Research, and Analysis

1. *Read and Interpret data*
 - a. Interpret data presented in tables and graphs.
 - b. Know the basics of probability theory and the concept of sample.
 - c. Know the difference between statistical and substantive significance.
2. *Find, evaluate, analyze and use a variety of sources of information*
 - a. Locate information from a variety of sources appropriate to the task.
 - b. Determine main and supporting ideas and draw inferences from them.
 - c. Critically evaluate information by discerning the quality of materials.
 - d. Critically evaluate information by qualifying the strength of the evidence and arguments.
 - e. Critically evaluate information by determining its credibility.
 - f. Critically evaluate information by identifying any bias or perspective of the authors.
 - g. Critically evaluate information by using prior knowledge.
 - h. Demonstrate familiarity with a data analysis software program.
3. *Identify and analyze problems appropriate to the social science discipline being studied*
 - i. Identify and define a problem.
 - j. Use deductive and inductive problem-solving skills as appropriate to the problem being studied.
 - k. Use multiple perspectives and resources to analyze a problem

Communication

1. Present a coherent thesis when making an argument.
2. Support the thesis with appropriate evidence when making an argument.
3. Anticipate and answer possible objections when making an argument.
4. Present a concise, clear closing when making an argument.
5. Organize ideas to achieve coherence in communication.
6. Understand the concept of plagiarism and how to avoid it through the use of paraphrasing, summarizing, quoting and citing.
7. Identify and use parts of speech correctly and consistently.
8. Use a variety of sentence structures in writing.

Technology and History

1. Examine the social/economic climate for invention and innovation in different periods of history.
2. Explain how the evolution of civilization has been directly affected by, and has affected, the development and use of tools and materials.

Technology and Information Literacy

1. *Determine and apply an evaluative process to all information sources chosen for a project*
 - a. Examine information for its accuracy and relevance to an information need.
 - b. Identify relevant facts, check facts for accuracy and record appropriate information.
 - c. Create a bibliography of sources in an electronic format.
 - d. Select appropriate information on two sides of an issue.

2. *Apply a research process model to conduct research and meet information needs*
 - a. Select the essential question to be examined by the research.
 - b. Identify sources most likely to have the needed information and determine subjects and keywords to be used in searching magazine databases and other electronic reference resources.
 - c. Evaluate information and select relevant and pertinent information found in each source, and maintain accurate records of sources used.
 - d. Organize and analyze information, finding connections that lead to a final product.
 - e. Follow copyright law and use standard bibliographic format to list sources.
 - f. Assess whether the essential questions are answered, gather more information and data and modify search terms as needed. Edit the product.
 - g. Review and evaluate research process and the resources used.

3. *Formulate advanced search strategies, demonstrating an understanding of the strengths and limitations of the Internet, and evaluate the quality and appropriate use of Internet resources*
 - a. Construct an effective search strategy to retrieve relevant information through multiple search engines, directories and Internet resources.
 - b. Narrow or broaden the search strategy by modifying the keywords entered in the original search strategy.
 - c. Employ a systematic approach to judge the validity of a Web information match against the defined information need.
 - d. Examine the information retrieved through Internet searching for authenticity of information, bias, currency, relevance, and appropriateness.

4. *Evaluate choices of electronic resources and determine their strengths and limitations*
 - a. Choose a topic and identify appropriate electronic resources to use, citing the name and date of the resource database archive collection.
 - b. Research and critique information in different types of subscription (fee-based) electronic resources to locate information for a curricular need.
 - c. Investigate tools within electronic resources to generate search strategies.