

# Advanced Placement United States History

## Overview

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### **Course Description and Goals:**

The twofold objectives of this course are 1) to increase the students' understanding of United States History from the colonial period to the present, and 2) to help each student prepare for the AP examination. This course examines the evolution of the American republic from the initial European incursions into North America to the present. Our investigation of the nature of American democracy includes methods, evidence, and scholarship from the areas of social, political, economic, cultural and diplomatic history. The course is divided into periods of time and focuses on the themes in the *AP Course Description*, including national identity, economic transformation, and U.S. actions on the world stage. This course is divided into two semesters, **Colonial America to the Gilded Age**, and the **Progressive Era to the Present**. The course will be taught at the college level. One of the major differences between a high school and a college history course is the amount of reading required and in the course focus. Generally, high school courses stress: "What happened and when did it happen?" intending to provide a core of basic knowledge available basically for recall. Some college courses continue this focus. However, model courses widen the focus to include "Why and How?" and "How is this a part of what Americans are today?" Current historiography, that is, "Who wrote this history and what were their sources and motives?" is an important part of a college history course and will therefore be an important theme in this course.

### **General Course Requirements**

- **Reading** – College history courses usually require extensive supplementary reading as well as the reading of a textbook. The key to survival is to “**keep up**”, not “catch up”. Be prepared to read and discuss textbook and supplementary reading assignments.
- **Other Projects** –debates, simulations, role plays, short research assignments.
- **Tests**-Unit tests will cover materials presented in the textbook readings, classroom discussions lectures, outside readings, videos, and student reports. Unit tests will **assume a thorough reading of the assigned textbook, *A People and a Nation***. Unit tests will usually include both multiple choice and essay questions. Essay questions will be taken from or modeled on previous AP examinations prompts.
- **Quizzes**- There will be reading quizzes administered on a regular basis (usually weekly) that cover information from textbook to help insure that students are ‘keeping up’ with their assigned readings.
- **Writing Assignments**- Studies by ETS have shown that students who succeed on AP Exams are those who are the most widely read and who have proficiency with the written word. You will practice and improve your writing skills during the course of this year.

AP US History Units of Study

Semester 1	Semester 2
<i>Unit I—Colonial America</i>	<i>Unit X: The Progressive Era</i>
<i>Unit II: The American Revolution</i>	<i>Unit XI: The Quest for Empire</i>
<i>Unit III: Creating a Nation</i>	<i>Unit XII: WWI</i>
<i>Unit IV: Jeffersonian Democracy</i>	<i>Unit XIII: The Twenties</i>
<i>Unit V: Economic and Social Matters</i>	<i>Unit XIV: The Thirties</i>
<i>Unit VI: Reform, Politics, and Expansion</i>	<i>Unit XV: Foreign Relations in a Broken World</i>
<i>Unit VII: Civil War and Reconstruction</i>	<i>Unit XVI: WWII</i>
<i>Unit VIII: Transformation in America</i>	<i>Unit XVII: Cold War</i>
<i>Unit IV: Gilded Age Politics</i>	<i>Unit XVIII: Reform and Conflict 60's and 70's</i>
	<i>Unit XIV: Reagan and Beyond</i>