AP US History Syllabus

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**Course Description**

AP US History is a survey course covering American history from the Pre-Columbian period to the present. The class is taught in accordance with the AP US History curriculum framework, and is designed to prepare students for the AP US History Exam in May.

**Textbook:**

Kennedy, David and Lizabeth Cohen. *The American Pageant.* 14th ed. Boston: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2013.

**Supplemental texts and Resources:**

Davidson, James and Mark Lytle. *After the Fact: the Art of Historical Detection.* 4th ed. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2000

Hofstadter, Richard. *The American Political Tradition and the Men Who Made It*. New York: Vintage Books, 1989

Kennedy, David and Thomas Bailey. *The American Spirit: United States History as Seen by Contemporaries.* 2 vols. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2002.

Maddox, Robert., ed. *Annual Editions United States History.* 2 vols. 17th and 21st ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2003, 2011.

**Units of Study**

Each unit of study will address the concept questions as related to the time period.

**Period 1: 1491-1607**

**Content:** Demographics of Europe, the Americas, and West Africa; Meso-American culture; transatlantic commerce; comparison of colonies across the Americas (religion, economies, politics, cultures); and foundations of slavery.

**Reading Assignments:** *The American Pageant,* Chapters 1-2

**Period 2: 1607-1754**

**Content**

European colonization; American Indian resistance; economic population patterns; formation of race and identity; and tensions with Britain.

**Reading Assignments:** *The American Pageant, Chapters 2-5*

**Period 3 1754-1800**

**Content**

British colonial policies; enlightenment ideas; war for independence; formation of republic and national identity; work and labor (free and unfree); and regional economic differences.

**Reading Assignments:** *The American Pageant*, Chapters 6-10

**PERIOD 4 1800-1848**

**Content**

Definition of democratic practices; expansion of the vote; market revolution; territorial and demographic growth; two-party system; Andrew Jackson; and the role of the federal government in slavery and the economy.

**Reading Assignments:** *The American Pageant*, Chapters 11-17

**PERIOD 5: 1844-1877**

**Content**

Tensions over slavery; reform movements; imperialism; women and nonwhites; public education; Mexican War; Civil War; and Reconstruction.

**Reading Assignments:** *The American Pageant,* Chapters 17-22

**PERIOD 6 - 1865-1898**

**Content**

Reconstruction; US imperialism; industrialization; immigration; urbanization; women’s movement; and working class culture and leisure

**Reading Assignments:** *The American Pageant*, Chapters 23-26

**PERIOD 7A 1890-1929**

**Content**

Progressive reform; radicalism; World War I and Russian revolution; first red scare; first migration of African Americans; race riots; culture wars of the 1920’s

**Reading Assignments:** *The American Pageant,* Chapters 27-32

**Period 7B 1929-1945**

**Content**

Hoover and FDR in the capitalist crisis; New Deal; and World War II

**Reading Assignments:** *The American Pageant,* Chapters 32-35

**PERIOD 8 1945-1980**

**Content**

Atomic age and the Cold War; suburban development and the affluent society; the other America; Vietnam; social movements of the long 1960’s; Great Society programs; economic and political decline in the 1970s; and the rise of conservativism.

**Reading Assignments:** *The American Pageant,* Chapters 36-39

**PERIOD 9: 1980-present**

**Content**

Reagan at home and abroad; growth of poverty; Bush, Sr. and end of Cold War; Clinton and the internet; race relations; NAFTA and other trade agreements; 9/11; Patriot Act; education policies of Bush, JR and Obama; and environmental policies.

**Reading Assignments:** *The American Pageant,* Chapters 39-42

**APUSH Expectations**

* A genuine love of learning and strong interest in United States history
* Good time management skills - **all work is expected to be turned in on time. No late work will be accepted.**
* **Read the textbook!**
* **Read the textbook!**
* **Read the textbook!**
* Ability to work both independently, and in group situations.
* Committed to completing challenging academic both inside and outside of the classroom
* Excellent organization of academic information, including use of textbooks, online resources, notebooks and class assignments.
* Critical and constructive exchange of ideas
* Strong written expression that draws conclusions and uses specific historic evidence to prove the author's point.