

Advanced Placement United States History

Syllabus 2009-2010 / David M. Hildebrand, Western High School

Course Description

This course is a college-level chronological survey of United States History designed to give advanced students at Western High School sufficient preparation to successfully complete the AP US History Exam on Friday, May 7th 2010.

AP classes give students an edge in learning and demonstrate to college admissions officers that the student has the superior skills necessary to succeed in a post-high school academic setting.

Emphasis is placed on drawing from and interpreting primary source documents within the context of various topical, thematic and periodic eras within the history of the American Republic from prior to colonization to the contemporary situation. This course includes a significant amount of reading and exposure to a wide set of factual information. Students will demonstrate mastery of the course objectives through a combination of objective assessment and extensive writing.

Additionally, students will frequently step into various roles and take a wide variety of positions with the purpose of connecting past historical development and conflict with the present American situation and the roles they will take in their future.

Course Objectives

Students will

- ✦ Attain a broad understanding of United States social, economic and political history
- ✦ Master a wide set of historical events, people and issues, locating them within both a chronological and thematic framework
- ✦ Investigate and interpret historical data from original documents, archival data sets and ephemera
- ✦ Differentiate between various historiographical strands to understand how historians have developed and changed the narrative story of America
- ✦ Critically analyze proximal causes and effects to differentiate between immediate events and long-term trends
- ✦ Debate, articulate and write extensively and critically about various issues in American history, and
- ✦ Successfully pass the AP United States History Exam

Course Scope

This course is different from other survey type courses in US History. Because of the large number of topics we must cover, we will go quickly and it is critical that you stay caught up on work. The following major segments of the course are emphasized:

- ✦ **Colonial Beginnings:** the social, political and economic development of America—leading to the Revolutionary War, and the establishment of a federal union.
- ✦ **Ante-Bellum Period:** from the establishment of the new Republic through the Civil War, with emphasis on domestic political and economic patterns, expansion to the west, foreign policy and sectional conflict. Federalist, Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy.
- ✦ **Crisis and Reform:** the Civil War and its Aftermath. American politics and society to 1914. Immigration, Industrial growth, labor and imperialist expansion. Populist and Progressive reform.
- ✦ **American Hegemony 1914-2000:** foreign intervention and leadership in global conflicts. Economic boom and bust, New Deal reform, WW1 & WW2, Cold War, Civil Rights, American culture.

Themes

While the course is organized chronologically, these are a variety of themes that are used to integrate and contrast historical developments:

- ✦ **American Diversity:** The diversity of the American people and the relationships among different groups. The roles of race, class, ethnicity, and gender in the history of the United States.
- ✦ **American Identity:** Views of the American national character and ideas about American “exceptionalism.” Recognizing regional differences within the context of what it means to be an American.
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **Demography:** 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.
- ✦ **Economic Transformations:** Changes in trade, commerce, and technology across time. The effects of capitalist development, labor and unions, and consumerism.
- ✦ **Environment:** Ideas about the consumption and conservation of natural resources. The impact of population growth, industrialization, pollution, and urban and suburban expansion.
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **Slavery:** 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.
- ✦ **War and Diplomacy:** Armed conflict from the pre-colonial period to the twenty-first century; impact of war on American foreign policy and on politics, economy and society.

Texts / Readings

Main Textbook:

Henretta, James A, David Brody, and Lynn Dumenil. *America's History*. 6th Edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's. 2008. ISBN: 13: 978-0-312-44350.

Zinn, Howard, *A People's History of the United States*. New York: Harper Collins. 2005.

**Various Primary and Secondary Readings as Assigned

Online Resources

1. The instructor maintains an **extensive website for student use**:
 - ✦ <http://BaltimoreTeacher.com/>: Here you will find all of the assignments, study guides, documents and handouts given out in class, and extensive materials for each unit and theme. For most of the advanced topics, documents, you must login using the name/password combination you were issued on the first day of class.
 - ✦ <http://simpy.com/user/apuswestern> : this website contains an extensive collection of links to places on the internet where students may conduct historical research and view archival documents. Currently there are over 500 links indexed here.
2. **General guidelines** for website use:
 - ✦ **Wikipedia:** currently there is a great deal of controversy among the scholars about the feasibility of using Wikipedia (or other similar online sites). The instructor's position is mixed: Wikipedia can

provide some accurate information regarding historical topics, and can serve as a departure point for further research. But students should beware that because these websites are open source and can be edited by others who do not have acceptable academic qualifications, inaccuracies and bias can influence the quality of articles. Any website that is “popularly” maintained by individuals and organizations not affiliated with an academic institution should be suspect and crosschecked against a variety of sources.

- ✦ **General rule:** .edu and .gov sources can be readily used with a high degree of confidence, while .com, .org, .net sources are more suspect and should be checked and verified for accuracy.
- ✦ **Sourcing:** in academic papers, students must always properly cite websites used for background or direct quotes using the full URL address and including the date for which the page was used and excerpted.

Grading

Grades for students will follow the following policy:

- 50%-- Exams/Essays/Quizzes
- 30%-- Classwork/Homework/Projects
- 20%-- Participation in Class Discussions/Simulations/Attendance

Assignments generally will be scored on a 20 point rubric (20=100%, 19=95%, 18=90%, 17=85%, etc.); Essays and DBQ's will be scored using the standard AP rubric, and wherever possible, students will both receive copies of rubrics specific to the essay, and will participate in peer grading and revision with the goal of real improvement in writing. Exams will be scored using a standard 100% scale for objective items. Quizzes, because most of them are unannounced and are a spot check of how well students are keeping up with reading and comprehension and retention, cannot be made up. Credit for students missing a quiz must be obtained through performance on a specific research topic/assignment that the student and instructor agree on.

For all other classroom rules and procedures, refer to the handout you receive during the first week of class.

Weekly Schedule At a Glance

Week of	Unit	Major Topics / Content	Textbook Readings
1 08/31	1: Three Worlds Meet <i>Beginnings to 1620</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Native American population, economy and culture prior to contact with Europe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 1-- Worlds Collide: Europe, Africa, and America, 1450-1620 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 2-- The Invasion and Settlement of North America, 1550-1700 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 3-- The British Empire in America, 1660-1750 ⊕ Pageant Chapter 4-- Growth and Crisis in Colonial Society, 1720-1765
2 09/07			
3 09/14			
4 09/21			
5 09/28	3: Revolution and the New Nation <i>1754-1820s</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ British, French and Spanish conflicts in the New World ▪ American Revolution ▪ Inadequacy and rejection of Articles of Confederation ▪ Development of the and ratification of the US Constitution / Bill of Rights ▪ The Slave Compromise ▪ The Development of Political Parties ▪ Jefferson in Power ▪ The War of 1812-1814 ▪ The Era of Good Feelings ▪ The Monroe Doctrine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 5-- Toward Independence: Years of Decision, 1763-1776 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 6-- Making War and Republican Governments, 1776-1789 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 7-- Politics and Society in the New Republic, 1787-1820
6 10/05			
7 10/12			
8 10/19			
9 10/26	4: Expansion and Reform <i>1801-1861</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Westward Expansion, Manifest Destiny, Federal Land Policy and Native Americans ▪ Expansion of Judicial Power under the Marshall Court ▪ Growth of Cotton Economy, and Industrial America ▪ The Second Great Awakening and Social Reform movements ▪ Development of Abolition ▪ Nationalism and Sectionalism ▪ Jacksonian Democracy and its legacy ▪ Expansion of Slavery ▪ Texas and Mexico 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 8--Creating a Republican Culture, 1790-1820 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 9--Economic Transformations, 1820-1860 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 10-- A Democratic Revolution 1820-1844 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 11--Religion and Reform, 1820-1860 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 12-- The South Expands: Slavery and Society, 1820-1860
10 11/02			
11 11/09			
12 11/16			
13 11/23			
14 11/30	5: The Civil War & Reconstruction <i>1850-1877</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Civil War ▪ The Presidency of Abraham Lincoln ▪ The Freedmen's Dilemma ▪ Reconstruction and the Rise of the New South 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 13 --The Crisis of the Union, 1844-1860 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 14--Two Societies at War, 1861-1865 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 15-- Reconstruction, 1865-1877
15 12/07			
16 12/14			
17 12/21			
18 12/28			
19 01/04			
20 01/11			
Jan 19-22	<i>1st Semester Examinations – Exam will cover period from 1600-1877</i>		

Week of	Unit	Major Topics / Content	Textbook Readings
21 01/25	6: The Development of the Industrial United States 1870-1900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The New Frontier: Mining, Ranching, and Farming ▪ Industrial Expansion, Labor ▪ Railroads, Steel and Oil ▪ "Robber Barons" ▪ Immigration ▪ Urbanization ▪ Populist Reaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 16-- The American West ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 17-- Capital and Labor in the Age of Enterprise, 1877-1900 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 18-- The Industrial City: Building It, Living in It ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 19-- Politics in the Age of Enterprise, 1877-1896
22 02/01			
23 02/08			
24 02/15	7: The Emergence of Modern America 1890-1930	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Imperial Dominance and Expansion ▪ Spanish American War, Panama ▪ TR: action/reaction and the expansion of executive power ▪ Progressivism ▪ World War I ▪ "Jazz", Gangsters and Flappers ▪ Prohibition ▪ Technological Miracles: Automobile, Radio, Airplanes and the growth of Consumerism ▪ Harding, Coolidge and Hoover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 20-- The Progressive Era, 1900-1914 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 21-- An Emerging World Power, 1877-1914 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 22-- War and the American State, 1914-1920 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 23--Modern Times, 1920-1932
25 02/22			
26 03/01			
27 03/08	8: The Great Depression and World War II 1929-1945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic Crash and Recovery ▪ The New Deal ▪ The Presidency of FDR ▪ World War II ▪ Dropping the Bomb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 24-- Redefining Liberalism, the New Deal, 1933-1939 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 25--The World at War, 1939-1945
28 03/15			
29 03/22			
30 03/29			
31 04/05	9: Postwar United States 1945-1973	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Marshall Plan ▪ Truman Doctrine and Containment ▪ The Korean War ▪ The Baby Boom ▪ JFK: Idealism and Realism ▪ The Johnson Presidency: The Great Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 26--Cold War America, 1945-1960 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 27-- The Age of Affluence, 1945-1960 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 28, The Liberal Consensus: Flaming Out, 1960-1968
32 04/12			
33 04/19	10: Contemporary United States 1968-Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Civil Rights Movement ▪ Normalcy and Counterculture ▪ Vietnam ▪ Watergate ▪ "Morning in America Again" ▪ Iran-Contra ▪ First Gulf War ▪ Impeaching Politicians ▪ Terrorism and non-state based war ▪ Service Economy Shift ▪ Global Activism and Economy ▪ Greening of America 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 29--The 1970s: Towards a Conservative America ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 30-- The Reagan Revolution and the End of the Cold War. 1980-2001 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 31-- A Dynamic Economy, A Divided People, 1980-2001 ⊕ Henretta, Chapter 32-- Into the Twenty-First Century
34 04/26			
35 05/03	<i>AP Exam Week – Review & Testing</i>		
35 05/10	During the final weeks we will finish any remaining contemporary topics and		
36 05/17			
37 05/24			
38 05/31			
Jun 4-6	<i>Final Examinations – Exam will cover period from 1865-2000</i>		