

AP United States History

General overview of the curriculum

The course is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university U.S. history course. Students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical comparisons; and utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course also provides seven themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society.

Overview of assignments

The pace of the course will be roughly 3-4 days per chapter. Each chapter will be assessed through a short answer quiz and a multiple choice test. Occasionally, students will be assigned scholarly articles to read in preparation for a seminar debate about various historical issues. Each “Period” will be assessed through a multiple choice exam, DBQ essay, and LEQ essay. Practice exams will be assigned on occasion. Specific due dates can be found on the class calendar, which is shared with the students.

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Exam Overview

The AP U.S. History Exam is 3 hours and 15 minutes long and includes both a 95-minute multiple-choice and short-answer section (Section I) and a 100-minute free-response section (Section II). Each section is divided into two parts, as shown in the table below. Student performance on these four parts will be compiled and weighted to determine an AP Exam score.

Section	Question Type	Number of Questions	Timing	Percentage of Total Exam Score
I	Part A: Multiple-choice questions	55 questions	55 minutes	40%
	Part B: Short-answer questions	3 questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required Question 1: periods 3–8• Required Question 2: periods 3–8• Choose between<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question 3: periods 1–5OR• Question 4: periods 6–9	40 minutes	20%
II	Part A: Document-based question	1 question: periods 3–8	60 minutes (includes a 15-minute reading period)	25%
	Part B: Long essay question	1 question, chosen from three options on the same theme: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• periods 1–3• periods 4–6• periods 7–9	40 minutes	15%

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Summer Assignment

The summer assignment will cover the colonial era and will consist of three major parts, each of which will be due at some point during the summer. The parts are as follows:

1. An essay of the colonial way of life using the textbook and a packet of documents for support.
2. Short answer, LEQ, and DBQ responses derived from the first several chapters of the textbook.
3. A historical book review.

Expectations, policies, and tips for success

All assignments must be completed in full and on time. Late work is strongly discouraged and accepted only in the most extenuating of circumstances. Students should use the class calendar and plan ahead so that they can stay on pace with their work and not get overwhelmed. Students may submit essays days early to receive feedback and improve their writing. Students should be fully committed to the course once they begin and should plan for a challenging but fulfilling year. Students should avoid registering for the course to be with friends or “just to try it out.”

Materials list

1. Three ring binder
2. Five dividers labelled: 1. Text/class notes 2. Short answer quizzes 3. Seminar notes 4. Essays 5. Skill Days
3. Loose leaf paper for notes
4. Pens and pencils