

Department: History

Course Name: Advanced Placement United States History

Course Description:

This course focuses on developing students' understanding of American history from the pre-colonial period to the present. AP U.S. History students investigate the context of American history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods employed by professional historians when they study the past. The course is organized around seven themes, which students explore throughout the course, in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places.

Content:

Pre-Columbian Indian cultures

Earliest contacts between Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans in America

Colonization

American Revolution and founding of United States

Geographic, economic, territorial, and population growth in the early 1800s

Sectionalism and regional differences

Civil War and Reconstruction

Industrialization, urbanization, immigration, and imperialism

Progressive reform at the turn of the Twentieth Century

International involvement: World Wars I and II

International involvement: the Cold War

American society in the post-World War II era

Modern America

Skills:

Identify and understand major themes in American history

Present information accurately and argue positions persuasively in class discussion

Evaluate evidence from primary and secondary sources

Present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format

Describe, analyze, and evaluate diverse interpretations of historical sources

Text and Materials:

Fraser, James W., By the People: A History of the United States, 2nd AP edition (2019)

Schweikart and Allen, A Patriot's History of the United States (2019)

Zinn, A People's History of the United States (1980)

Various primary sources

Various electronic instructional platforms: Google Drive, Formative, Flipgrid, Nearpod

Methods of Instruction:

Discussion

Lecture

Investigation in small groups, using traditional and electronic resources

Analysis of primary and secondary sources

Simulations

Methods of Evaluation:

Quizzes and tests: objective questions
Short answer responses
Essays
Primary source analysis
Group assignments
Research projects
Shorter daily assignments
AP exam in May

