

# **AMERICAN HISTORY - SYLLABUS:**

## **FROM 1776 TO THE PRESENT**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to give students a college-level experience in American history. It also prepares students for the AP U.S. History exam if they desire to take it. Using thematic and chronological approaches to the material, the emphasis of the course will be interpreting primary sources and other documents, mastering a large amount of key facts. The course will also emphasize the writing of essays that show an ability to critically analyze those documents and to explain them in the context of the facts.

### **COURSE UNITS WILL INCLUDE**

1. Pre-Columbian societies, colonial North America, and The American Revolutionary Era
2. The Early Republic
3. Politics, Religion, Economics of Antebellum America and the Civil War
4. Industrialization, Urbanization, Populism
5. Progressivism and Struggling for Justice at Home and Abroad
6. Making Modern America

### **HISTORICAL THINKING SKILLS**

- **Chronological Reasoning:** Identify and compare basic causes and/or effects and distinguish between both short and long term causes and effects.
- **Comparison and Contextualization:** Evaluate multiple historical developments within societies, across societies, and from multiple perspectives.
- **Crafting Historical Arguments from Historical Evidence:** Framing questions about the past and addressing those questions through the construction of a plausible and persuasive argument.

- Historical Interpretation and Synthesis: Describing, analyzing, evaluating and constructing diverse interpretations of the past and being aware of how particular circumstances and contexts in which individual historians work and write also shape their interpretation of past events.

## **TEXTBOOK**

I WILL PROVIDE ALL THE MATERIALS TO STUDENTS (SCANS AND XEROXES)

- **Esther Wood: AP United States History: An Essential Coursebook**

### Other Sources:

- Most primary sources for the class will be taken from the U.S. History Documents CD-Rom issued with each textbook.

### **I WILL PROVIDE OTHER DOCUMENTS IN SCANNED VERSION FROM:**

- Ronald Takaki. *A Different Mirror, A History of Multicultural America*. New York, Boston, London: Back Bay Books Little, Brown and Company, 1993
- Richard Hofstadter. *The American Political Tradition*. New York: Vintage Books, 1989
- Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States (2005 Edition)*. New York: Harper Collins Ellen Alderman, Caroline Kennedy. *In our Defense: The Bill of Rights in Action*. New York: Harper Collins 2002
- Timothy J. Henderson, *A Glorious Defeat: Mexico and its War with The United States*. New York: Hill and Wang A division of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007

## **TENTATIVE OUTLINE**

### **Unit 1 Pre-Columbian societies, colonial North America, and The American Revolutionary Era**

#### Readings:

#### **AP United States History, Unit One (1450 to 1791)**

Topics:

- New World Beginnings
- The Planting of English America Settling the Northern Colonies
- American Life in the Seventeenth Century Colonial Society on the Eve of Revolution The Dual for North America
- The Road to Revolution
- America Secedes from the Empire

Primary Source Readings:

- Christopher Columbus, Letter to Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain (1494)
- [http://wps.prenhall.com/wps/media/objects/543/556920/ch1\\_a4\\_d1.pdf](http://wps.prenhall.com/wps/media/objects/543/556920/ch1_a4_d1.pdf)
- Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, “Indians of the Rio Grande” (1528-1536)
- Jacques Cartier: First Contact with the Indians (1534)
- John White, the Lost Colony (1590)
- An Act Concerning Servants and Slaves\_  
<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/power/text8/BeverlyServSlaves.pdf>  
[https://owlcation.com/humanities/Slavery-in-America-Slave-Codes-in-Virginia-The-1705-Virginia-Slave- Act](https://owlcation.com/humanities/Slavery-in-America-Slave-Codes-in-Virginia-The-1705-Virginia-Slave-Act)
- The Trial of Anne Hutchinson (1638)
- Excerpt from Cotton Mather’s “Memorable Providences, Relating to Witchcrafts and Possessions” (1689)
- Declaration of the Injured Frontier Inhabitants (of Pennsylvania) (1764)
- Ben Franklin, Testimony Against the Stamp Act (1766)
- Thomas Paine’s Common Sense (1776)
- Joseph Warren, “Account of the Battle of Lexington”(1775)

**Unit 2: The Early Republic**Readings:**AP United States History: Unit 2 (first half)**

- The Confederation and the Constitution Launching the New Ship of State
- The Triumphs and Travails of the Jeffersonian Republic
- The Second War for Independence and the Upsurge of Nationalism The Rise of a Mass Democracy
- Forging the National Economy
- The Ferment of Reform and Culture

Primary Source Readings:

- Divergent reactions to Shay's Rebellion
- Patrick Henry Speaks Against Ratification of the Constitution (1788)
- Questions Concerning the Constitutionality of the National Bank (1791)
- The Alien and Sedition Acts (1798)
- Sacagawea Interprets for Lewis and Clark (1814)
- Lyman Beecher, Six Sermons on Intemperance (1828)
- Charles Finney, "What a Revival of Religion Is" (1835)
- A Lowell Mill Girl Tells Her Story (1836)
- Report and Resolutions of the Hartford Convention (1814)

**Unit 3: Politics, Religion, Economics of Antebellum America and the Civil War**Readings:**AP United States History Unit 2 (second half)**

- The South and the Slavery Controversy Manifest Destiny and Its Legacy Renewing the Sectional

### Struggle Drifting Toward Disunion

- Girding for War: The North and the South The Furnace of Civil War
- The Ordeal of Reconstruction

#### Primary Source Readings:

- Benjamin Drew, Narratives of Escaped Slaves (1855)
- George Fitzhugh, "The Blessings of Slavery" (1857)
- Thomas Corwin, Against the Mexican War (1847)
- Across the Plains With Catherine Sager Pringle in (1844)
- A Black Abolitionist Speaks Out (1829)
- William Lloyd Garrison, from The Liberator (1831)
- Frederick Douglass, Independence Day Speech (1852)
- Abraham Lincoln, "A House Divided" (1858)
- Jefferson Davis, Address to the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States of America (1861)
- Charles Harvey Brewster, Three Letters from the Civil War Front (1862)
- Clara Barton, Medical Life at the Battlefield (1862)
- Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address (1863)
- A Firsthand Account of the New York Draft Riots (1863)

### **Unit 4: Industrialization, Urbanization, Populism**

#### Readings:

#### **The American Pageant**

- Chapter 23 Political Paralysis in the Gilded Age Chapter 24 Industry Comes of Age
- Chapter 25 America Moves to the City

- Chapter 26 The Great West and the Agricultural Revolution Chapter 27 Empire and Expansion

Primary Source Readings:

- Progress and Poverty (1879)
- Ida B. Wells-Barnett, from A Red Record (1895)
- Booker T. Washington, Atlanta Exposition Address (1895)
- Etiquette for the Upper Classes (1919)
- Scientific Management (1919)
- William Graham Sumner, What the Social Classes Owe to Each Other (1883)
- Henry Cabot Lodge, “The Business World vs. the Politicians” (1895)

**Unit 5: Progressivism and Struggling for Justice at Home and Abroad**

Readings:

**The American Pageant**

- Chapter 28 Progressivism and the Republican Roosevelt Chapter 29 Wilsonian Progressivism in Peace and War Chapter 30 American Life in the “Roaring Twenties” Chapter 31 The Politics of Boom and Bust
- Chapter 32 The Great Depression and the New Deal Chapter 34 America in World War II

Primary Source Readings:

- Platform Adopted by the National Negro Committee (1909)
- Jane Adams, Twenty Years at Hull House (1910)
- Theodore Roosevelt, from The New Nationalism (1910)
- American Troops in the Trenches (1918)

- Newton D. Baker, “The Treatment of German Americans” (1918)
- Woodrow Wilson, The Fourteen Points (1918)
- Woodrow Wilson, from The New Freedom (1913)
- Herbert Hoover, Speech at New York City (1932)
- FDR’s First Inauguration Speech (1932)
- “Share the Wealth”, Huey Long (1934)
- Father Charles E. Coughlin, “A Third Party” (1936)
- Mrs. Henry Weddington, Letter to President Roosevelt (1938)
- Albert Einstein, Letter to President Roosevelt (1939)
- Franklin D. Roosevelt, The four Freedoms (1941)
- A Philip Randolph “Why Should We March?” (1942)
- Japanese Relocation Order, February 19, 1942
- Sterling A. Brown, “Out of Their Mouths” (1942)

## **Unit 6: Making Modern America**

### Readings:

#### **The American Pageant**

- Chapter 35 The Cold War Begins Chapter 36 American Zenith Chapter 37 The Stormy Sixties
- Chapter 38 The Challenges to the Postwar Order Chapter 39 The Resurgence of Conservatism  
Chapter 40 America Confronts the Post-Cold War
- Chapter 41 The American People Face a New Century

### Primary Source Readings:

- Kenneth MacFarland, “The Unfinished Work” (1946)

- Harry S Truman, The Truman Doctrine (1947)
- Ronald Regan, Testimony Before the House Un-American Activities Committee (1947)
- National Security Council Memorandum Number 68 (1950)
- Ladies Home Journal, “young Mother” (1956)
- The Kinsey Report (1948)
- Students for a Democratic Society, the Port Huron Statement (1962)
- The Civil Rights Act of 1964
- The Tonkin Gulf Incident (1964)
- Stokely Carmichael and Charles Hamilton, from Black Power (1967)
- Donald Wheeldin, “The Situation in Watts Today”
- Roe V. Wade (1973)
- The Gay Liberation Front, Come Out (1970)
- Jimmy Carter, the “Malaise” speech (1979)
- Ronald Reagan, Address to the National Association of Evangelicals (1983)
- Paul Craig Roberts, The Supply-Side Revolution (1984)

#### **NOTE ON CLASS SCORING**

The Students final grade will be based on their scores on all tests quizzes and homework. The scores will break-down as follows:

15 percent - Daily Work

40 percent - Quizzes

45 percent - Test



**GRADING SCALE**

94-100= A	90-93.9= A-	
87-89.9= B+	84-86.9= B	80-83.9= B-
77-79.9= C+	74-76.9= C	70-73.9= C-
67-69.9= D+	64-66.9= D	60-63.9= D-
Below 60= F		

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