**Curriculum**

**Advanced Placement US History**

**Course Overview**

This year-long course is designed to give students a comprehensive introduction to major historical thinking skills and a survey of US history. The course begins with the Pre-Columbian Era and ends with present day. Drawing on primary sources and scholarly writings, students develop both content knowledge and historical thinking skills. They explore important tensions that have arisen at various times--between freedom and order, development and exploitation, and diversity and tolerance, to name a few. In addition to rigorous coursework, students will write a major research paper in the second semester.

**Department Standards**

Expected Outcomes:

1. Knowledge of and interest in history, the social and behavioral sciences and related subjects.
2. Constructive participation in a democratic society.
3. Understanding of various societies throughout history.
4. Development of critical analysis skills.
5. Development of research skills.
6. Development of communication and presentation skills.

**Benchmarks**:

Students will...

\* understand--with some degree of complexity--the significant events and movements of American history, the contexts in which they took place, and their effects;

\* develop an informed appreciation of American history, in its fullness and in its many facets: political, social, economic, intellectual and cultural;

\* apply their knowledge of American history thoughtfully and flexibly, in class discussions, debates, and other activities;

\* select, use, and evaluate primary and secondary sources, effectively and appropriately;

\* write coherent and effective historical essays, including a longer, thesis-driven research essay; and

\* prepare thoroughly for the AP exam.

**Performance Indicators**

Students will be able to:

develop their own, effective style of note-taking.

approach primary documents in a holistic, scholarly manner, from a variety of

perspectives.

interpret evidence effectively within a free-response essay.

debate perspectives in history as part of a team.

create open-ended questions that enrich class discussions.

engage in discussions constructively, with shared leadership.

design thesis statements and create coherent arguments tailored to free response questions.

evaluate secondary sources critically.

assess free-response essays using AP guidelines.

employ evidence provided by an AP document-based question in a coherent essay.

conduct targeted research for a self-designed thesis.

develop arguments to support a research thesis, using collected evidence.

write a competent research essay draft, using formal style and citation.

revise a research essay thoroughly, using rubric-based teacher feedback, particularly for coherence and concision debate perspectives in history individually, and rebut an opponent’s case.

prepare for the AP United States History exam.

demonstrate--through discussion, writing, and tests--a strong grasp of the major

historical phenomena of the time period studied, including:

- colonial settlement in the New World, and conflicts with native peoples

- regional variations in the Thirteen Colonies

- the impact of wars and colonial administration on politics, concluding with the War for Independence

- the flaws of the Confederation, and the development of the Constitution

- the development of political parties, nationalism, and foreign policy

- the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution- Jacksonian democracy and Indian policy

- The Second Great Awakening; romanticism and reform

- Manifest Destiny, slavery, and sectionalism

- the “War between the States” and its aftermath

- Reconstruction politics and corruption

- the development of the West- big business and organized labor in the Second Industrial Revolution

- immigration, urbanization, agrarian politics, and Populism

- American imperialism and progressivism

- isolationism, war, and peace under Wilson

- modernism, cultural conflict, and consumerism in the 1920’s

- the Great Depression and the New Deal

- isolationism, war, and peace again

- the onset of the Cold War, and the policy of containment

- postwar cultural conservatism and dissent - interventionism in Korea and Vietnam

- the Civil Rights Movement, Women's Rights Movement and the Great Society

- antiwar protest, reactionary resistance, and Watergate - conservative

developments, social and economic

- terrorism, the Iraq war, and the Bush presidency.

**Assessments**

A. Responding in class about assigned reading

B. Practice Quizzes and Essays aligned with the AP Exam

C. Examining primary sources, individually and in groups

D. Designing one-page synthesis of the text readings in order to process content according to the historical thinking skills of the course

E. Researching and writing a thesis-based historical investigation, eight to twelve pages

F. Taking ‘mock’ AP Exams, once in December and again before the actual exam

G. Completing a post-exam project

**Core Topics**

**First Quarter:**

Pre Columbia World; Columbian Exchange

New World exploration; early colonial life

Colonial society

Struggle for self-government; War for Independence

Inventing a new democracy

Federalism and the National period

**Second Quarter:**

Growth and early industrialism

Second Great Awakening

Westward expansion

Slavery and sectionalism

Civil War and Reconstruction

Immigration and urbanization

The Gilded Age

**Third Quarter:**

American Imperialism

Progressivism and World War I

Prosperity to Depression

World War II and Containment

Research Project

**Fourth Quarter:**

Cold War

Civil Rights Movement

Cultural Change

Reagan and G.H.W. Bush

1992 to Present

Exam Preparation

Research Project Revision

Specific content:

Introduction of Pre-Columbia world via Charles Mann’s 1491

A. Exploration & Colonization

1. Exploration-Why/Who went/Who was there?

2. Spanish colonies

3. English colonies

a. Virginia

b. New England

B. Colonial Society

1. Demographics

2. The South

3. New England

4. Middle Colonies

5. Intellectual trends

C. America and the British Empire

1. Political Administration of the Colonies

2. Economic Administration of the Colonies

3. French and Indian War

D. From Empire to Independence

1. Attempts to enforce mercantilism

2. Colonial Response

E. The American Revolution

1. Causes

2. Early battles

3. Expansion of the War

4. Settlement

5. Social Revolution

F. Creating a New National Government

1. Articles of Confederation/Government

2. The Constitution/Government

G. The Federalist Era

1. HamiltonÆs Financial Program

2. Political Parties

3. Foreign and Domestic Affairs

4. John Adams

5. Election of 1800

H. The Early Republic (demographics, the economy)

1. Jefferson

a. First Term

b. Second term

2. War of 1812

3. Monroe

I. Nationalism and Sectionalism

1. Nationalism

a. Economy

b. Politics/Foreign Policy/Expansion/the Judiciary

2. Sectionalism

a. Tariff

b. Missouri Compromise

J. The Beginning of a National Economy

K. The Age of Jackson

1. Elections of 1824, 1828

2. Indian Policy

3. Nullification

4. The Rise of the Whigs

L. The Age of Reform

1. Religion

2. Ideal Communities

3. Reform Movements

M. Culture-Literature/Art/Education/Urban Life

N. Manifest Destiny

1. Texas

2. Mexican War

3. California

O. South and North

1. South-Economy/Society

2. North-Economy/Society

P. The Union Divides

Q. The Civil War

1. North and South: the sides compared

2. Strategies

3. The War: West, East, South

4. Emancipation

R. Reconstruction

1. Plans

2. Presidents Johnson and Grant

3. Compromise of 1877

4. Successes/Failures/Effects of Reconstruction

S. Post-Reconstruction

1. Politics

2. The South

3. The West

T. The Industrial Revolution

1. Causes

2. Urbanization

3. Society

4. Culture

5. Politics

6. Farmers/Populism

U. Progressivism

1. Political/Social/Economic Reforms

2. Roosevelt

3. Taft

4. Wilson

V. Imperialism & WWI

1. Wilson

2. US Neutrality

3. US Entry

4. Mobilization

5. Versailles Treaty

6. Post-War America

W. 1920s

1. Conservatism/Red Scare

2. Liberalism

3. Consumerism

4. Hoover

X. Crash & Depression

1. Crash

2. HooverÆs program

3. First New Deal

4. Second New Deal

5. Successes and Failures

Y. WWII

1. US Isolationism

2. WWII in Europe and Asia, US Neutrality

3. US Entry

4. Mobilization

5. Strategy/Conferences

6. Ending the War

7. Yalta, seeds of Cold War

Z. Cold War

1. Relations with the USSR

2. China and Korea

3. Red Scare

4. American Culture 1950s, Civil Rights

5. Vietnam

AA. 1960s

1. JFK

2. LBJ

3. Richard Nixon

BB. The 1970s, 1980s

1. Watergate

2. Ronald Reagan

3. The End of the Cold War

4. George H.W. Bush

CC. Recent History

1. Bill Clinton

2. George W. Bush

3. The American Future

Exam Preparation

**Resources**

**Main Text**

Tindall, G.B., and D.E. Shi, *America: A Narrative History*.

*For the Record: A Documentary History*

**Other**

Primary Source Documents

Journal articles by professional historians

Maps

Artwork

Documentary films

Historical movies

History websites

**Sources selected by students for research project**