



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Course Overview



Course Name
Advanced Placement United States History
Course # 0230

General Information

Credits: 1.0	Length: Full Year
Weighted: yes	Format: Meets Daily
Prerequisite: teacher recommendation	Grade: 11

Course Description

This course is an opportunity for the motivated and talented social studies student to use the methods historians use to bring insight and analysis to events in our nation's past. Advanced Placement US History is a college-level course that surveys the history of the United States from the colonial period to the present. Strong reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study are necessary for success. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, and interpretation of original documents. A college-level textbook is used. Several weeks are spent in intensive review to prepare students to take the College Board AP exam.

Course Objectives:

The content learning objectives for the AP U.S. History course and exam are organized under seven themes, which are topics of historical inquiry to explore throughout the AP US History course.

- Identity
- Work, exchange, and technology
- Peopling
- Politics and Power
- America in the World
- Environment and Geography- Physical and Human
- Ideas, Beliefs, and Culture

Common Assessments:

- Document-Based Questions
- Long Essay Questions
- Short Answer Questions
- Multiple-Choice Tests

Types of Multiple-Choice Questions

1. Classic/Best Answer Questions—the most common type requires students to read the question and select the most correct answer.
2. Cause-and-Effect Questions—ask which event caused another, or what is the result of something.
3. List and Group or “Roman Numeral” Questions—students are given a question, then several statements, phrases, or words relating to the question. Decide which of the statements, phrases, or words are correct. It may be one or more than one.

4. EXCEPT or NOT Questions—in this type of question, four of the answer choices are correct, and the student must find the answer that is *wrong*.
5. Chart/Graph Questions—require students to answer based on graphs, tables, and charts.
6. Interpreting a Map Questions—are used to describe not just geography, but social and political organization as well.
7. Political Cartoon Questions—require students to interpret a cartoon: its symbols and point of view.

Major Units of Study:

Period 1: 1491-1607
Period 2: 1607-1754
Period 3: 1754-1800
Period 4: 1800-1848
Period 5: 1844-1877
Period 6: 1865-1898
Period 7: 1891-1945
Period 8: 1945-1980
Period 9: 1980-present

Materials & Texts

Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe
The American Pageant 13th ed. David M. Kennedy, Lizabeth Cohen, Thomas A. Bailey
The American Spirit: Volume I to 1877 by David M. Kennedy and Thomas A. Bailey
The American Spirit: Volume II since 1865 by David M. Kennedy and Thomas A. Bailey

Summer Assignment

Read Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe
Read Chapters 1 and 2 in The American Pageant, take the quiz for each chapter at
http://college.cengage.com/history/us/kennedy/am_pageant/13e/ace/ace1.html