

## **Course Description**

The AP program in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials- their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance- and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. An AP United States History course should thus develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in an essay format.

## **Course Materials**

Bailey, Kennedy, and Cohen. *The American Pageant* 12<sup>th</sup> Ed. Boston; Houghton/Mifflin, 2002

Kennedy, Bailey' *The American Spirit* Vol. I Tenth Ed. Boston; Houghton/Mifflin, 2002

Kennedy, Bailey' *The American Spirit* Vol. II Tenth Ed. Boston; Houghton/Mifflin, 2002

Roderick Nash, *From These Beginnings; A Biographical Approach to American History* Volume I and II (New York: Harper and Row, 1978)

Wheeler/ Becker' *Discovering The American Past; A Look at the Evidence* Fourth Edition (Houghton/ Mifflin1998)

Diane Ravitch, *The American Reader* (Harper Collins1990)

Various other books and articles

## **Major themes of the Course**

- American Diversity
- American Identity
- Culture
- Demographic Changes
- Economic Transformations
- Environment

- Globalization
- Politics and Citizenship
- Reform
- Religion
- Slavery and its' legacies in North America
- In War and Diplomacy

## **Unit 1: Colonial History (2 Weeks)**

### **Readings:**

American Pageant, Bailey and Kennedy, Chapters 1-4

From These Beginnings, Ch. 2 "John Winthrop"

"A model of Christian Charity"

"Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"

### **Themes:**

1. The development of American culture and underlying stimuli.
2. The development of regional patterns and associations.

### **Content:**

- Reasons for colonization: Wealth v. Liberty
- Cultural transfers between Europe, Africa, and the Americas
- Sociological and ideological differences between Americans and Europeans (Influence of Frontier)
- Birth and development of Sectional differences New England, Middle and Southern Colonial Regions
- Self-government in the colonies

### **Major Assignments:**

- DBQ: Democracy in Colonial Weathersfield
- DBQ: New England and Chesapeake Regions

## **Unit 2: Independence (2 Weeks)**

### **Readings:**

American Pageant, Bailey Chapters 5-7

"Common Sense"

Discovering The American Past, “What Really Happened at the Boston Massacre? The Trial of Captain Thomas Preston”

**Themes:**

1. Redefining the Colonial Identity
2. Reshaping relationships between The Colonies and Great Britain.
3. Assessing the true nature of the American Revolution.

**Content:**

- Mercantilism — merits and menace for Britain and the Colonies
- The end of British neglect and emerging crisis after 1763
- New Colonial Self-Confidence: Strength in Unity
- Prosecution of the War and negotiating the peace

**Major Assignments and Assessments:**

- Path to Revolution: Timeline 1763 – 1783
- DBQ – Was the American Revolution Economic or Political?
- FRQ – Analyze the extent to which the American Revolution represented a radical alteration in American Ideas and Institutions. Confine your answer to the period 1775 to 1800

**Unit 3: Post-Independence and the Critical Period (2 Weeks)**

**Readings:**

American Pageant, Chapters 8-10

The American Spirit Vol. I

Federalist Papers – 10, 51

**Themes:**

1. Colonial experience and the creation of government
2. Federalists and Republicans: strict v. liberal constructionism
3. Divergence and interdependence: Confederation and the Constitution
4. Political Parties

**Content:**

- The Articles of Confederation and the Constitution
- Failures of the Articles
- The struggle to forge a new nation
- Compromises
- Bill of Rights
- Federalism v. States Rights

### **Major Assignments:**

- How the Constitution remedied the weakness of the Articles of Confederation. (Chart)
- A Dialogue between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton (using blind quotes).
- DBQ: Articles of Confederation
- FRQ: Differences in Major Parties

## **Unit 4: Jefferson's Administration/Growth of Nationalism (2 Weeks)**

### **Readings:**

American Pageant, Bailey Chapters 11-12

From These Beginnings, Chapter 5

### **Themes:**

1. Development of the National Identity
2. Decline of the Federalists and the transformation of the Republicans
3. Expansion of the national frontier

### **Content:**

"Jeffersonian Republic"

- Transformation of the Republicans
- Louisiana Purchase
- Era of Good Feelings
- Rise of Nationalism
- Diplomatic Achievements
- The Marshall Supreme Court Rulings

### **Major Assignments and Assessments:**

- Students Brief Supreme Court Cases

- 1998 DBQ Jeffersonian and Strict Constructionism

## **Unit 5: The Age of Jackson (2 Weeks)**

### **Readings:**

American Pageant, Chapters 13-15

The American Spirit Vol. I Andrew Jackson Denounces Nullification.

### **Themes:**

1. The Jacksonian Democrats.
2. Rise of the Common Man
3. American Reformers and Artists
4. Women in America.

### **Content:**

- Spoils System
- Nullification
- Biddle's Bank
- Indian Removal Act
- Manifest Destiny
- Reform movements/ American Art
- Transcendentalists, Religion, and Utopian Movements

### **Major Assignments and Assessments:**

- Lowell Girls/ Cult of True Womanhood Seminar
- One pager on Reformer/ Artists
- Debate over declaration of War on Mexico.
- Jacksonian DBQ

## **Unit 6: Slavery and Sectionalism (2 Weeks)**

### **Readings:**

American Pageant, Bailey Chapters 16 – 19

Brief "Dred Scott"

### **Themes:**

1. Sectionalism
2. Slavery
3. Civil War Causes
4. Abolition
5. Extension of Slavery into the Territories

**Content:**

- Missouri Compromise
- Compromise of 1850
- Kansas-Nebraska Act and Bleeding Kansas
- Lincoln-Douglas Debates
- Dred Scott Decision
- Harriet Beecher Stowe

**Major Assignments and Assessments:**

- DBQ: John Brown
- FRQ 2000: Moral arguments and Political Actions
- Socratic Seminar on Sectionalism

**Unit 7: Civil War and Reconstruction (4 Weeks)**

**Readings:**

American Pageant, Bailey Chapters 20-22

**Themes:**

1. Secession and War
2. Reconstruction
3. Abolition of Slavery

**Content:**

- Comparison and Contrast of CSA and USA
- Reconstruction, 1865 – 1877
- Presidential and Congressional plans
- Andrew Johnson and the Radical Republicans
- Tenure of Office Act and Impeachment
- Compromise of 1877 end to Reconstruction

**Major Assignments and Assessments:**

- Civil War Diaries Seminar
- FRQ: Reconstruction as “Era of Shame”
- Reconstruction Role Play

## **Unit 8: Gilded Age (3.5 Weeks)**

### **Readings:**

American Pageant, Bailey Chapters 23-26

Andrew Carnegie’s Gospel of Wealth (1889) The American Spirit Vol. II

Helen Hunt Jackson’s A Century of Dishonor

Booker T. Washington The Atlanta Exposition Address

*Plessey v. Ferguson*

### **Themes:**

1. Graft and corruption in the Gilded Age
2. Laissez-faire economics.
3. Rise of Big Business.
4. Role and effectiveness of third parties
5. Immigration and urbanization
6. Impact of new technology and inventions

### **Content:**

Gilded Age politics; Boss System

Industrial growth

Class and racial conflict

Business tycoons: methods, accomplishments, philosophies

Rise of organized labor; Strikes

Rise of the City

New Black Leaders

New Women— push toward suffrage

Plight of the farmer

Indian Wars

### **Major Assignments and Assessments:**

- FRQ: Rockefeller: Robber Baron or Captain of Industry
- Research and interpret Thomas Nast cartoons
- Chart Industry’s Benefits/ Detriments to American Politics, Economics and Society.
- Carnegie’s Building of an Empire (Vertical and Horizontal Integration).
- Compare Booker T. Washington to W.E.B. DuBois.

## **Unit 9: Imperialism (1 Weeks)**

### **Readings:**

American Pageant, Bailey Chapters 27 – 28

### **Themes:**

1. Globalization
2. New Manifest Destiny

### **Content:**

Reasons for new interest in world affairs  
Spanish-American War  
Open Door Policy  
Teddy Roosevelt's "Big Stick" Diplomacy  
Taft's Dollar Diplomacy  
Wilson's "Moral" Diplomacy

### **Major Assignments and Assessments:**

- DBQ: Imperialism
- Debate: Imperialists v. Anti-Imperialists
- Significance of Alfred T. Mahan

## **Unit 10: Progressives and WWI (3 Weeks)**

### **Readings:**

American Pageant, Bailey Chapters 29 – 31  
George Cohan "Over There"  
Woodrow Wilson's "War Message to Congress"  
The Jungle  
Shame of the Cities  
How the Other Half Lives

### **Content:**

Who are the Progressives?  
Progressive issues at local, state and national level  
Muckrakers  
Federal Reserve System  
Comparison and contrast of the three Progressive presidents, TR, Taft and Wilson

## **WWI**

Causes for America's entrance into WWI

America's war effort at home

Civil liberties during times of war

Treaty of Versailles (negotiations and efforts for ratification)

## **Major Assignments and Assessments:**

- Chart: How progressive were the Progressives?
- FRQ (1972) – Discuss the development of the women's suffrage movement and account for its success during the Progressive Era.
- Examine WWI propaganda efforts.

## **Unit 11: 1920s-1930s (3 Weeks)**

### **Readings:**

American Pageant, Bailey Chapters 32-34

Langston Hughes' "I, Too"

Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land"

### **Themes:**

The 1920s:

1. Post-World War I compared to post-Civil War nativism, laissez-faire, labor government, farmers, attitudes toward reform.
2. Cultural conflicts: native v. foreign; rural v. urban; fundamentalism v. modernism
3. Boom to bust economics

The 1930s:

1. Causes of the Great Depression
2. "Hands-on" economics

### **Content:**

The 1920s:

Social unrest and intolerance

Prohibition and Organized Crime

Jazz Age culture, Youth Rebellion, Literature of Disillusionment

Business growth and consolidation, credit, advertising

Comparing and contrasting the three Republican presidents

The 1930s:

Liberal v. Conservative approaches to the Depression

New Deal Legislation — Effectiveness and Criticisms  
Court Packing Plan  
Dust Bowl and Demographic Shifts  
Critics of the New Deal  
Impact of the Depression on minorities

**Major Assignments and Assessments:**

- Why was the Immigration Act of 1924 Passed? (document analysis)
- Depression Era Photography Exhibit.
- Rank causes of Depression
- Conservative and Liberal responses to The Depression.

**Unit 12: World War II and Origins of the Cold War (3 Weeks)**

**Readings:**

American Pageant, Bailey Chapters 36-37  
President Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms Speech"  
President Roosevelt's "War Message to Congress"

**Themes:**

1. War efforts on the home front
2. Post-war relations with the Soviet Union

**Content:**

World War II:

America's commitment to neutrality between the wars

Military strategies

Home front issues: Women, African-Americans and other minorities

Decision to use the atomic bomb

Post World War II:

Containment

Truman Doctrine

Marshall Plan

NATO

Berlin Airlift

Korea

**Major Assignments and Assessments:**

- McCarthyism v. Domestic Wiretapping Post 9-11
- 1988 DBQ – The Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb

**Unit 13: Post-War Domestic Issues (2 Weeks)**

**Readings:**

American Pageant, Chapters 38 – 40

*Brown v. Board of Education*

Tom Hayden's The Port Huron Statement

Rachel Carson's Silent Spring

Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream"

Betty Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique"

Melvina Reynolds "Little Boxes"

Dr. Martin Luther King's "Letter From a Birmingham Jail"

**Themes:**

1. Civil liberties and civil rights.
2. Post-war prosperity and economics

**Content:**

Presidential administrations (from Truman through LBJ)

Civil Rights Movement

- African-Americans
- Women's Movement
- Hispanic-Americans
- Counter-culture

Second Red Scare

Prosperity of the 1950s

**Major Assignments and Assessments:**

- Civil Rights Project
- McCarthyism (Role Play)
- DBQ: Civil Rights

**Unit 14: Foreign Policy — Eisenhower-Reagan (3 Weeks)****Readings:**

American Pageant, Bailey Chapters 38 – 41

**Themes:**

1. Cold War (including Vietnam)
2. Détente and Glasnost.
3. Foreign Policy.
4. America's economy

**Content:**

Eisenhower:

Southeast Asia military advisors

Korea

U-2 Incident

Kennedy:

Flexible Response

Peace Corps

Southeast Asia military and economic aid

Bay of Pigs and Cuban Missile Crisis

Johnson:

Escalation of Vietnam conflict

Nixon/Ford:

Vietnamization

Détente

Carter:

Camp David Accords

SALT II, Afghanistan, and Olympic Boycott

Iran Hostage Crisis

Reagan:

End of the Cold War

**Major Assignments and Assessments:**

- FRQ Containment Policy
- Viet Nam Timeline