

## AP U.S. History 2014-2015

Instructor: Mr. Mark Mignot  
E-mail: [mignoma@lc-ps.org](mailto:mignoma@lc-ps.org)

### Course Design

Advanced Placement United States History is a challenging course meant to emulate the rigor of an entry-level college course. An AP Examination is offered in May and provides students with an opportunity to earn college credit. The course is a two semester survey of American history from the age of exploration to the present. Having a strong work ethic coupled with solid reading and writing skills are essential to succeeding. An emphasis in critical thinking and evaluating skills, timed essay writing, and interpretation of primary and secondary documents will be evident throughout the year.

### Course Objectives

- Master a broad body of historical knowledge
- Use historical data to support a thesis
- Interpret and apply data from original documents, cartoons, graphs, letters, etc.
- Effectively use analytical skills of evaluation, cause and effect, compare and contrast, etc.
- Understanding of interpretations of historical events and people through supplemental readings by historians
- Prepare for and successfully pass the AP examination on May 8th

### Course Textbook

*American History-Connecting With The Past*, Alan Brinkley, McGraw-Hill, 2012.

### Primary Source Books

*For The Record: A Documentary History of the United States volumes 1 and 2*, David E. Shi and Holly A. Mayer, Norton & Company, 1999.

### Supplemental Reading

Students will be given outside readings each week that will correlate with the topic being studied. These will be essays from various historians that will help stimulate discussions in class.

### Course Organization

Provided in the syllabus is a course outline that breaks the class down into units that will cover two-three chapters from the textbook. At the beginning of each unit, you will be given a specific daily reading schedule that covers approximately two-three weeks. This schedule will also provide you the Big Idea questions of the day. There will be an assessment at the end of each unit. During the course of each unit students will be responsible for textbook, primary source, and secondary source readings. In class, students will be guided through various readings, discussions, essays, thesis statements and document based questions.

### Seminar Format

This class will function best if it is done in a seminar format. You and I would be best served if we are discussing the history vs. me repeating what you have read in your textbook. We need to explore the subject together; therefore, I am planning on you having your reading done for each day. The classroom discussions will revolve around the unit objectives and primary sources that we interpret/discuss each day. The important thing is to make connections that go beyond chronological associations; the themes of the course will help you make the necessary links that allow you to deepen your understanding of U.S. History. Moreover, when we can discuss what has happened as well as what is happening in U.S. History we further our ownership of the society we live in. Engage yourselves daily.

### Writing in APUSH

There will be a considerable amount of time devoted to learning how to write essays that critically analyze various historical questions.

### Assessments

Your assessments will consist of the following: Reading quizzes, objective tests, short-answer questions, document based questions, long essay questions, and a variety of assessments intended to evaluate your development as an “apprentice historian”.

### **Unit 1: 1491–1607 (Chapter 1-The Collision of Cultures)**

Impact of geography on social, political, and economic customs of Native American populations; impact of religion on cultural interaction between settlers and natives; demographic shifts as a result of the Spanish Empire; the development of the Americas through conflict and exchange with West Africa; French, Dutch, and English settlement patterns and motivations for these patterns; shifting of perceptions of Africans, American Indians and Europeans from exploration through settlement.

### **Unit 2: 1607-1755 (Chapter 2-Transplantations and Borderlands Chapter 3-Society and Culture in Provincial America)**

Varying goals, methods, and outcomes of Western European colonization; development of slavery from indentured servitude through chattel slavery in British North America; regional differences of British North American colonies; Conflict over settlement between European nations and the resulting conflict between Europeans and American Indians; Atlantic Trade system creating divergent social, political, religious, and economic systems; religious, political, and social (including gender) changes as a result of the end of salutary neglect.

### **Unit 3: 1754-1776 (Chapter 4-The Empire In Transition)**

British, French, and colonial relations and alliances altered as a result of European colonial wars; concurrent phenomenon of establishing an American identity and colonial unity as a result of British imperial policies; early foreign policy as a result of internal desires and external influences; Effects of Enlightenment on American intellectual, cultural, and political ideas.

### **Unit 4: 1776-1800 (Chapter 5-The American Revolution)**

Rationale and process of moving from the Articles of Confederation to Constitution; varying interpretations of Revolutionary ideals within the United States and around the globe; migrant patterns leading to internal conflict; Westward American settlement/organization and its impact on Native relations; role of race and gender in creating varying economic and social norms.

### **Unit 5: 1800-1824 (Chapter 6-The Constitution and the New Republic Chapter 7-The Jeffersonian Era Chapter 8-Varieties of American Nationalism)**

The formation and acceptance of the two party system and the different interpretations of the powers of the three branches of government, sectionalism as a result of regional economic differences and the resulting debate over the respective powers of the federal government and state governments; how the growth of the nation affects foreign policy and leads the U.S. into global conflicts; political turmoil and conflict with Native American groups over westward expansion, Sectional conflict as a result of slavery, compromise, and expansion.

**Unit 6: 1824-1848 (Chapter 9-Jacksonian America Chapter 10-America's Economic Revolution)**

Second Great Awakening and its impact on the eastern elite as well as backcountry commoners in response to changing moral obligations and democratic ideals; rise of the embrace of the "Common Man" definition and its resulting democratic reforms; the expression new ideas through art and literature within the context of demographic interests and ideals; technological developments result from and influence regional differences; Market Revolution and its effects on the changing demographics, political and economic debates, as well as transforming gender roles.

**Unit 7: 1844-1861 (Chapter 11-Cotton, Slavery, and the Old South Chapter 12-Antebellum Culture and Reform Chapter 13-The Impending Crisis)**

Motivations for and methods of Manifest Destiny; Effects of Manifest Destiny on internal and external migration patterns; Expansion intensifies conflict over slavery and Native American policies; Intellectual, cultural, political, and economic debates and failed efforts at compromise culminating in the start of the Civil War.

**Unit 8: 1861-1877 (Chapter 14-The Civil War Chapter 15-Reconstruction and the New South)**

Goals, strategies, and resources of the Union and Confederacy, Initial Confederate successes offset by improved military leadership, Lincoln's political leadership, and use of Northern resources; Northern leadership during Reconstruction defines powers of the federal government; political decisions made during Reconstruction outline freedoms of African-Americans yet fail to deliver access to or protection of freedoms; constitutional decisions about African-Americans influences the women's movement.

**Unit 9: 1865-1898 (Chapter 16-The Conquest of the Far West Chapter 17-Industrial Supremacy Chapter 18-The Age of the City)**

Influenced by the experience and end of the Civil War, the "Gilded Age" witnessed a growth of big business; the growth of big business as a result of government/social protection; the dispossessed organized to create a political/economic voice; Farmers and Laborers were ineffective as a result of internal division; Urbanization, Immigration, and Industrialization illuminate opportunities for and restrictions on various minority groups; increased mobility and attempted assimilation lead to greater conflict with Native Americans; the rise of big business spawned a nation debate over economic policies of the federal government; the beginning of a new debate over the role of women and African-Americans in American society.

**End of 1<sup>st</sup> Semester**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

### **Unit 10: 1890-1902 (Chapter 19-The Populist Crusade and Imperial America)**

America as an economic and political world power; The Spanish American War as a turning point in foreign policy; moral and economic arguments over external expansion; debates between jingoists and isolationists.

### **Unit 11: 1890-1916 (Chapter 20-The Progressives)**

Increased business production and profit furthers opportunities for urban dwellers while simultaneously increasing the stratification of wealth; Increased call for government intervention/regulation at the state/local level; reform movements led by the urban middle class; Federal reform, especially economic and social.

### **Unit 12: 1916-1920 (Chapter 21-America and the Great War)**

Wartime hysteria, the suppression of civil liberties, and xenophobia; patterns of external and internal migration; movement from isolationism to intervention; consternation over the treaty process and America's role in the world.

### **Unit 13: 1920-1937 (Chapter 22-The "New Era" Chapter 23-The Great Depression Chapter 24-The New Deal)**

Technological developments lead to a more mobile, advanced society while highlighting the differences between the modernists and fundamentalists; celebration of ethnic diversity in urban centers; causes and effects of the Great Depression; the New Deal's approach to addressing the social, economic, and political problems caused by the depression; debates about the New Deal programs along the political spectrum; New Deal legacy.

### **Unit 14: 1921-1945 (Chapter 24-The Global Crisis Chapter 25-America in a World at War)**

The movement from isolationism to intervention; mobilization coupled with migration patterns north and west altered population centers; the war on two fronts; moral and political debates involving the ethics of war; civil liberty debates within the U.S.; the defeat of the Axis.

### **Unit 15: 1945-1961 (Chapter 27-The Cold War Chapter 28-The Affluent Society)**

Early stages and interpretation of containment; examples of and differences between direct confrontation and proxy wars; attempts at ideological manipulation and political alliances across the global spectrum; U.S. economic interest and Middle East stability; Impact of Cold War hysteria on domestic politics; postwar optimism and affluence leads to an age of conformity; popular culture as an outlet to convey dissatisfaction with conformity among the youth; the genesis of the modern civil rights movement.

### **Unit 16: 1961-1980 (Chapter 29-Civil Rights, Vietnam, and the Ordeal of Liberalism Chapter 30-The Crisis of Authority)**

Goals, strategies, and outcomes of the African American Civil Rights Movement; Feminism, Gay/Lesbian challenge traditional gender/sexual assumptions; American Indian, Asian American, and Latino movements for economic opportunity and social acceptance; prevalence and visibility of poverty; Liberal ideas exemplified by the Great Society and Supreme Court decisions attempt to combat issues of poverty and race; the backlash on the left and right to Great Society legislation; External and internal migration patterns; continued debate over direct confrontation and proxy wars with Communist nations; environmental movement as a result of energy crises and a growing awareness of human interaction with the environment; growing sense of cultural empowerment as a result of disillusionment over Vietnam.

**Unit 17: 1980-Present (Chapter 31-From the “Age of Limits” to the Age of Reagan Chapter 32-The Age of Globalization)**

Conservative resurgence; coalition of the New Right; economic and political successes along with social limitations; continuation of big government, despite conservative rhetoric; Ronald Reagan's role in ending the Cold War; American global police; Economic, political, and social developments in the 1990's; 9/11 and the effects on foreign and domestic policy; energy dependence and the impact of fossil fuels on climate change debates; social change as a result of technological developments; economic and social changes as a result of new migration patterns; Clinton triumphant and embattled, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bush presidency, Barak Obama and the Affordable Healthcare Act.