Advanced Placement U. S. History Syllabus

# Program

This course is designed for those students who are planning to attend an institution of higher learning after graduating from high school. It is offered to juniors and seniors who have at least a B average in social studies and English classes. Students who do not meet the prerequisites may take the class with the approval from parents/guardians. The class meets for forty-two minutes, five days per week.

The class will be taught mainly through lecture and class discussion. However, students will also be expected to complete maps and outside readings, write essays, and participate in debates. Several projects must also be completed.

There will be a special emphasis on analyzing and critical thinking. Students will be given numerous outside readings to evaluate and write about or discuss. In particular, students must learn to answer the free response questions and DBQs that are found on the AP test.

## Course Materials

Brinkley, Alan. *American History: A Survey* (New York: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2003)

Carnes, Jim. *Us and Them* (Montgomery, AL: Southern Poverty Law Center, 1995)

Frazier, Thomas R. *Voices of America: Readings in American History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1985).

Haley, Alex. *Roots* (New York: Dell Publishing, 1976)

Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki and James D. Houston. *Farewell to Manzanar* (New York: Bantam Books, 1973).

Kovacs, Mary Anne, Roberta Leach, Douglas E. Miller, and John C. Ritter. *Advanced Placement U. S. History* parts 1 and 2 ( The Center for Learning, 1997).

O’Keefe, John. *America: 1870-1975* (New York: Longman, 1984).

Shi, David E. and Holly A. Mayer. *For the Record: A Documentary History of America* Vol. I and II (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1999)

Sinclair, Upton. *The Jungle* (New York: Penguin Books, 1905).

A number of other materials will be used as they are acquired or located by the instructor. Numerous websites and video clips will also be used. Students are encouraged to make use of the great variety of sources located in the high school library to complete any projects and papers.

# Course Objectives

This course is intended to allow students to better understand and appreciate the history of the United States so that they can apply this knowledge to decisions which they must make in the future. Students must be able to analyze and understand the past in order to make rational choices for the future of this nation.

Specifically students should be able to:

## First Semester

1. Describe the reasons why various groups of people wanted to colonize the New World and the culture clashes that occurred as a result.

2. Describe how and why English colonies differed from one another in purpose and administration.

3. Explain the development of a particularly American “mind and spirit.”

4. Explain how it was that colonists decided to rebel against England and why they were successful.

5. Explain how and why the Constitution replaced the Articles of Confederation and led to the growth of political parties.

6. Compare and contrast Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy.

7. Describe how sectionalism and nationalism developed at the same time in the same country.

8. Describe the effects of industrialization and urbanization on American society.

9. Explain how the idea of manifest destiny influenced America and Americans.

10. List and explain the cause of the Civil War and the reasons for the Northern victory.

11. Explain why many historians consider Reconstruction to be a glorious failure.

Second Semester

1. Describe the real West and how that reality differs from our views shaped by various media outlets.

2. Explain the impact of industrialization and urbanization after the Civil War on American history and society.

3. Explain how and why the United States became a world power.

4. Analyze and evaluate Populism, Progressivism and the New Deal.

5. Describe the role of the United States in the two world wars.

6. List and explain the causes of the Cold War.

7. Evaluate the role of the United States in the Cold War.

8. Analyze the response of the United States to international and domestic events since the end of the Cold War.

9. Describe the efforts by various minority groups to achieve equality and analyze their success or lack of success.

10. Evaluate America’s response to the threat of terrorism.

**Topic Outline—First Semester**

I. Meeting of Cultures

A. Native Americans

B. Spanish, English, and French colonists

II. The English Transplantations

A. The early Chesapeake region

B. New England

C. The Restoration Colonies

III. Society and Culture in Colonial America

A. Colonial population

B. Colonial economies

C. Patterns of society

D. The colonial mind

IV. Empire in Transition

A. The French and Indian War

B. Salutary Neglect

C. British mercantilism

D. Colonial discontent

V. The American Revolution

A. Military progress of the war

B. Application of revolutionary ideology to build a new nation and society

C. Dealing with the problems left by the Revolution

VI. The New Republic

A. Articles of Confederation

B. Constitution and Bill of Rights

C. Establishing national sovereignty

D. Downfall of the Federalists

VII. The Jeffersonian Era

A. Cultural nationalism

B. Religion

C. The Louisiana Purchase

D. Industrialism

E. Jefferson as President

F. War fever

G. War of 1812

VIII. American Nationalism and Sectionalism

A. The economy

B. Westward expansion

C. Era of Good Feelings

D. Sectionalism v. nationalism

IX. Jacksonian Democracy

A. Rise of mass politics

B. Nullification

C. Removal of the Indians

D. The Bank War

E. Democrats v. Whigs

X. The Northern Economic Revolution

A. New technology

B. Development of factories

C. The work force

D. Changes in society

E. Rural life

XI. The Antebellum South

A. King Cotton

B. Slavery

XII. Antebellum Culture and Reform

A. Romanticism

B. Utopian movements

C. Efforts to remake American society

D. The Abolitionists

XIII. Westward Expansion

A. Manifest Destiny

B. The Mexican War

C. The Sectional Debate

D. The Crises of the 1850s

XIV. Civil War

A. The secession crisis

B. Mobilization in the North and South

C. Campaigns and battles

D. Lincoln and the Civil War

XV. Reconstruction

A. Problems after the war

B. Lincoln, Johnson, and Radical Reconstruction

C. The Grant Administration

D. Abandonment of Reconstruction

E. The New South

**Topic Outline—Second Semester**

I. Conquest of the Far West

A. Societies of the Far West—Indians, Hispanics, and Chinese

B. The Western economy—mining, the Cattle Kingdom, and farming

C. The Indian wars

D. The Romance of the West

II. Growth of Big Business

A. Reasons for industrial growth

B. The Robber Barons

C. Criticism of Capitalism

D. Labor conflicts

III. Agrarian Revolt

A. The Grange

B. The Farmers’ Alliances

C. The Populists

D. Silver v. Gold

IV. The growth of the cities

A. Advantages and disadvantages of living in cities

B. Life and culture in the cities

V. Progressive America

A. Types of Progressives

B. Progressive reform

C. The Progressive presidents

VI. The United States Becomes a World Power

A. The new manifest destiny

B. The Spanish-American War

C. The Philippine War

D. Theodore Roosevelt and the “Big Stick”

E. Dollar Diplomacy

F. Wilson and Latin America

VII. World War I

A. American neutrality

B. America enters the war

C. The Treaty of Versailles

VIII. The Roaring Twenties

A. The Red Scare

B. The new economy

C. Culture and society

D. Conflict between rural and urban areas

E. The Harding Administration

F. The Coolidge Administration

IX. The Great Depression and the New Deal

A. Causes of the Great Depression

B. Hoover and the Great Depression

C. Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal

X. World War II

A. Cause of the war

B. The United States and the war

C. The Homefront

XI. The Origins of the Cold War

A. Truman and containment

B. The Korean Conflict

XII. The Affluent Society

A. The economic “miracle” after World War II

B. Society and culture in the 1950s

C. The McCarthy Era

D. Eisenhower Republicanism

XIII. Kennedy and Johnson

A. The Liberal State

B. Civil Rights

C. Flexible Response

D. The Youth Culture

E. Mobilization of Minorities

XIV. The Vietnam War

A. The first Indochina War and the Geneva Accords

B. The United States and Ngo Dinh Diem

C. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution

D. Quagmire

E. The war at home

F. The Tet Offensive

G. Nixon and Vietnamization

XV. The Nixon Administration

A. Foreign affairs

B. Politics and economics

C. Watergate

XVI. Politics and diplomacy after Nixon

A. The Ford Administration

B. The Carter Administration

C. The New Right and the Reagan Revolution

D. The end of the Cold War