

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY 540

SLE (A1, A2, C5, C6, S7)

Course Description

This course reflects the content of an introductory college course in U.S. History. It is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to critically analyze the challenges our country has faced for over 300 years. Students will use primary and secondary materials in order to comprehend and evaluate the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. The major themes of this course revolve around the political, economic and social issues and reforms in American history. Students will study the evolving nature of American history from our origins to the present. The successful completion of a performance-based common task will be required of all students. Students are responsible for completing a summer reading assignment. Students registered for this course are required to take the College Board Advanced Placement exam for U.S. History. Any student who does not complete the College Board Advanced Placement exam will qualify for credit in the U.S. History A section (541). Two credits in Social Studies and recommendation by previous Social Studies instructor are required for placement in this course.

Course Objectives

Students will successfully complete the College Board Advanced Placement exam for U.S. History by earning a score of 4 or 5 on the exam. Students will learn significant American historical content from the 17th to 20th centuries. Students will also develop their writing skills through Document Based Questions (DBQ's) and free response essays.

Performance Indicators

The student will demonstrate understanding of:

- The social, economic and political forces responsible for British colonization in America.
 - The impact of physical and political geography on decisions made in American history.
 - The causes and results of the American independence movement.
 - The reasons for creating the United States Constitution and the roles and responsibilities of the 3 branches of the federal government.
 - The Bill of Rights and the role and responsibility of the people in our democratic republic.
 - The causes and results of the Civil War and the goals of Reconstruction.
 - The Native American culture and the effects British colonial and American policies had on their culture.
 - The industrial revolution, its economic causes, its social impact on the labor movement and the progressive era.
 - Imperialism and American foreign policy in the 20th century.
 - The causes and results of the major wars of the 20th century.
 - The economic, political, and social impact of the New Deal.
 - The goals and objectives of the civil rights movement.
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Standards Alignment

(National History Standards)

1. Chronological Thinking
 2. Historical Comprehension
 3. Historical Analysis and Interpretation
 4. Historical Research Capabilities
 5. Historical Issues-Analysis and Decision-Making
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Technology Standards Alignment

Technology productivity tools (3A, 3B)
Technology communication tools (4A, 4B)
Technology research tools (5A, 5B, 5C)

Student Assessment

Test, quiz, midterm and final exams.

Writing assignments (DBQ format essays)

Projects

Oral presentations

Summer reading (including written response to assigned reading to follow in the fall)

Student Activities

- Interrogate historical data through examination of primary source material.
 - Examine primary source documents to identify bias.
 - Peer evaluation of student essays.
 - Examine maps and atlases to evaluate the role geography had on American history.
 - Use of Advanced Placement Exam document based essays (DBQ's).
 - Use of video and audio materials to identify bias and historical accuracy.
 - Library research.
 - Fieldtrips to historical based locations.
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Mission and Student Expectations Alignment

Academic Expectations (A1, A2)

Civic Expectations (C5, C6)

Social Expectations (S7)

Applied Learning Alignment

Problem solving (A1)

Information tools and techniques (C1, C2, C3)

Learning and self-management tools and techniques (D1, D2)

ELA Grade Span Expectations	Mathematics Grade Span Expectations
W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, W6, W7, W8, W9, W10, W14 OC1, OC2 R2, R3, R4, R5, R7, R8, R11, R12, R13, R14, R15, R16	

Portfolio Worthy Tasks

A.P. U.S. History

Multiple DBQ Essay opportunities (A1, A2, C5)

Rubber Soul Project (A1, A2)

Robber Barons Essay (A2, S7)

Bill of Rights Essay (A1, A2, C5, C6)