

AP United States History

Course Description

The Advanced Placement United States History course is designed to provide a college level experience in the study of the American past. Students will be required to not only master the requisite historical knowledge, but also develop a proficiency in the interpretation of documents and other primary sources and be able to understand and critique the interpretations of historians. It is to be expected that students will complete all readings and actively engage in class discussions and seminars regarding issues, themes, and historical problems. Students are also expected to complete essays and document-based questions regarding the course material.

It should be noted that the content of this course is, of necessity, spread over two years. New Jersey statute requires that the study of United States history be taught over two years. All students in the AP United States History program *must* be enrolled in United States History I Honors. It is the assumption of United States History I Honors that all students enrolled are being prepared for the Advanced Placement examination. No student may advance into the second year Advanced Placement course without successful completion of United History I Honors and a teacher recommendation.

The following syllabus includes readings, suggested DBQs and essays, and document selections for each unit. Additional tests, DBQs, and essay will be assigned as appropriate, and the teachers are encouraged to explore new documents and historical works, and to remain knowledgeable of contemporary scholarship.

Course Themes

The American Identity
Changing Conceptions of "Liberty"
Economic Development
The City Upon a Hill / Building a "New Zion"
American Exceptionalism
Nationalism versus Sectionalism
Expansionism and Manifest Destiny
Invention and Progress in a New World
Realpolitik versus Idealism in Foreign Policy
Assimilation and Exclusion
The Expanding Role of Government
Consensus and Dissent

Course Materials

Textbooks:

Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty!: An American History*. (Seagull ed.). New York: W.W. Norton. 2017
Norton, Mary Beth Norton. *A People and a Nation: A History of the United States*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1998

Primary Sourcebooks:

Foner, Eric (ed.) *Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History* (volumes 1 & 2). New York: W.W. Norton, 2017

Other Resources:

Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* (30th Anniversary ed.). New York: Henry Holt & Co. 2001.
Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. New York: Dover Publications. 1995.
DuBois, W.E.B. *The Souls of Black Folks*. New York: Barnes and Noble Classics. 2003.
Fischer, David Hackett. *Paul Revere's Ride*. New York: Oxford University Press. 1994

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- Fleming, Thomas J. *Duel: Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr, and the Future of America*. New York: Basic Books. 2000.
- Fromkin, David. *In the Time of the Americans: FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, Marshall, MacArthur-The Generation That Changed America's Role in the World*. New York: Vintage Books. 1996.
- Goodwin, Doris Kearns. *LBJ and the American Dream*. New York: St. Martin's Press. 1991.
- Hamilton, Alexander; Jay, John; Madison, James. *The Federalist*. New York: The New American Library. 1961.
- Stamp, Kenneth (ed.). *The Causes of the Civil War* (revised ed.). New York: Simon & Schuster. 1991.
- Stamp, Kenneth, *The Era of Reconstruction: 1865-1877*. New York: Vintage Books. 1965.

Assessment

- Tests
- Book Reviews
- Open-Ended Essays
- Document-Based Questions

Course Outline

The Collision of Three Worlds

Readings:

- Foner, chapters 1 & 2
- Norton, chapter 1

Essay Assignment: Destruction of "Eden" or creation of a "New World"?

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter one, plus handouts

Colonial America

Readings:

- Foner, chapters 3 & 4
- Norton, chapters 2-4

DBQ: Either King Philip's War, or liberty in the colonies

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapters 2-4, plus handouts

The American Revolution

Readings:

- Foner, chapters 5 & 6
- Norton, chapters 5 & 6

Book Review: *Paul Revere's Ride* and Fischer's theory of choice and contingency in history.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapters 5 & 6, plus handouts

Confederation and Constitution

Readings:

- Foner, chapter 7
- Norton, chapter 7

DBQ: Federalists and Anti-Federalists

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 7, plus handouts
Readings from *The Federalist*

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The New Republic

Readings:

Foner, chapter 8

Norton, chapters 8 & 9

Book Review: *Duel*, and history as commentary on the present.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 8, plus handouts

The Market Revolution

Readings:

Foner, chapter 9

Norton, chapter 10

DBQ: labor conditions

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 9

The Age of Jackson

Readings:

Foner, chapter 10

Norton, pages 358-367

DBQ: Liberty during the "Age of Jackson"

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 10, plus handouts

Building a New Zion

Readings:

Foner, chapter 12

Norton, chapter 12, and pages 345-358

Essay Assignment: Assessing the religious foundation of the American vision, from Winthrop's "City Upon a Hill" to Nineteenth century reform movements.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom, chapter 12, plus handouts

Slavery

Readings:

Foner, chapter 11

Norton, chapter 11

Book Review: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* as a powerful abolitionist polemic.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom, chapter 11, plus handouts

Texas and Expansion

Readings:

Foner, pages 398-410

Norton, pages 367-372, 375-382

Essay Assignment: Manifest Destiny and the American vision

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 13, document 59 (Thoreau), plus handouts

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Prelude to Civil War

Readings:

Foner, pages 410-436

Norton, pages 382-401

DBQ: What was the primary cause of the Civil War?

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 13, plus handouts

Stamp, *Causes of the Civil War* (selections)

The Civil War

Readings:

Foner, chapter 14

Norton, chapter 15

Essay Assignment: The role of the Civil War in redefining the United States.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom, chapter 14, plus handouts

Reconstruction

Readings:

Foner, chapter 15

Norton, chapter 16

DBQ: Northern and Southern perspectives on Reconstruction.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 15, plus handouts

Westward Expansion

Readings:

Foner, pages 512-528

Norton, chapter 17

Book Review: *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* and historiography regarding the West.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 16, documents 74 & 75, plus handouts

"The Gilded Age"

Readings:

Foner, pages 528-568

Norton, chapters 18-20

Essay Assignment: The economic dimensions of freedom during the "Gilded Age".

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 16, documents 76-78; chapter 17, documents 79-81, plus handouts

Empire or Republic?

Readings:

Foner, pages 568-581

Norton, chapter 22

DBQ: Should people in the new territories be citizens or subjects?

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 17, document 82, plus handouts

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The Progressive Era

Readings:

Foner, chapter 18

Norton, chapter 21

Essay Assignment: Compare the Progressive reforms to earlier reform movements and the theme of "Building a New Zion".

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 18, plus handouts

Selected essays from DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

America and the World: World War I

Readings:

Foner, chapter 19

Norton, chapter 23

DBQ: Idealism versus realism in American foreign policy.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 19, plus handouts

Selected poems from the First World War

The Twenties

Readings:

Foner, chapter 20

Norton, chapter 24

Essay Assignment: An assessment of the popular conception of the decade as "The Roaring Twenties" and a time of prosperity.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 20, plus handouts

The Great Depression

Readings:

Foner, chapter 21

Norton, chapter 25

DBQ: The New Deal and the question of reform.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 21, plus handouts and photos

America and the World: World War II

Readings:

Foner, chapter 22

Norton, chapters 26-27

Essay Assignment: Was the development and use of the atomic bomb necessary?

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 22, plus handouts and photos

Postwar America: Hot and Cold War

Readings:

Foner, chapter 23

Norton, pages 845-869; 885-896

Essay Assignment: Idealism versus realism in American foreign policy, part 2.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 23, plus handouts

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Postwar America: Conformity and Change

Readings:

Foner, chapter 24
Norton, chapter 28

DBQ: Conformity and Demands for Freedom and Change

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 24, plus handouts and photos

The Turbulent Sixties

Readings:

Foner, chapter 25
Norton, pages 896-909; 925-946

Book Review: *Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream* and an assessment of the Johnson presidency, and whether former aides can make valid assessments.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 25, plus handouts and photos

The Seventies

Readings:

Foner, pages 886-910
Norton, pages 909-912; 946-52; 955-963

DBQ: Assessing the Nixon presidency

Documents:

Handouts from teacher regarding Nixon and detente, domestic policy, Watergate, perspective of historians.

The Triumph of Conservatism: The Reagan Era

Readings:

Foner, pages 910-926
Norton, pages 963-982; 912-915

Essay Assignment: Compare Reagan and FDR regarding the role and size of the federal government.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapter 26, plus handouts.

Post Cold War America: Foreign Policy

Readings:

Foner, chapters 27 & 28
Norton, pages 916-922

Essay Assignment: Exporting democracy, and idealism versus realism in American foreign policy.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapters 27 & 28, plus handouts

Red State / Blue State: Domestic Events

Readings:

Foner, chapters 27 & 28
Norton, chapter 33

DBQ: The 2000 Election and partisan politics.

Documents:

Voices of Freedom: chapters 27 & 28

Review for Advanced Placement Exam