

AP United States History

Course Description

Advance Placement United States History examines U.S. history from discovery to the present. The course is divided into two semesters. First semester covers the period from 1607 to 1877. Second semester is from 1877 to the present.

The areas of concentration include political, economic, and social history coupled with an intense study of cultural, social, and intellectual institutions and their development. The course is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of United States history and to equip students with analytical skills and factual knowledge to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. Students should learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance.

Students should possess strong reading and writing skills and be willing to devote substantial time to study and the completion of class assignments. Emphasis is placed on analytical reading, essay writing skills, use of primary resources, and class discussion.

Students successfully mastering the course material may earn college credit by passing the annually administered AP United States History Exam.