

Montclair High School

Course Syllabus

Department: Social Studies

Course: AP US History II

Level: Advanced Placement

Credits: 5

Course Description:

Within the context of an Advanced Placement United States History course, the ultimate goal for the teacher is provide students with the opportunities to obtain the skills necessary to not only succeed on the AP US History Exam, but also outside of the educational arena. In an effort to present students with a level of work and situations they will encounter upon leaving high school, the advanced placement course requires students to take on the responsibility of completing a demanding curriculum which will focus on strengthening analytical thinking skills, synthesis of information, and writing skills. As a result, students will be engaged with thought-provoking lessons that will include document analysis and simulations, and a variety of other methods. These lessons seek to allow students to use their higher-order thinking skills. The growth of these skills will prepare students for the AP Exam in May, as well as the curriculum they will see when progressing through their education and lastly, life outside of school.

This course will travel from the Gilded Age through the present. Much of your reading will come from not only the main textbook (*American Pageant*), but from numerous primary and secondary sources asking you to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the material presented. The AP course stresses the development and utilization of these skills, as well as developing the ever-important ability to write coherently and with purpose. This is a college-level course.

Everything completed throughout the year is to prepare you for not only the AP exam, but for life as a continuing student, and as a citizen. Ultimately, there is an overarching goal of providing you with opportunities to become intelligent thinkers capable of examining a myriad of perspectives while making your own, thoughtful choices in response.

Standards:

NJCCCS: 6.1.12.A.5.a – 6.1.12.D.16.c

CCS: RH.11-12.1-10; WHST.11-12.1-10

Anchor Text(s):

Text Title	Publisher/Author	Year/Edition	ISBN	Text Distribution
<i>The American Pageant</i>	Kennedy & Cohen	16 th /2016	9781337090155	Hard copy, PDF copy, & online text available

Supplementary Materials:

Internet activities, educational videos, articles from journals, magazines, and/or newspapers.

Units of Study:

- I. Intro/Review Material – The Gilded Age and the Triumph of Industrial Capitalism

- immigration, urbanization, industry, life at the turn-of-the-century
- II. Imperialism and Interventionism
 - American expansion and foreign policy in the early 1900s
- III. Progressivism and Its Legacy
 - Progressive Era changes and its impact on activism and social change
- IV. The WWI Era and Its Aftermath
 - U.S. involvement and its impact at home and abroad
- V. Boom: The Roaring '20s and Modern Culture
 - economics, politics, and culture wars
- VI. Bust: The Great Depression and the New Deal
 - the crash, the depression, various groups' experiences, and government intervention
- VII. The WWII Era and Its Aftermath
 - U.S. involvement and its impact at home and abroad
- VIII. Cold War, Warm Hearth: 1950-1963
 - Eisenhower presidency, JFK foreign policy, domestic anti-communism
- IX. The Modern Civil Rights Movement: ca. 1954 – ca. 1970
 - leaders, groups, tactics, impact, controversies
- X. Vietnam and the 1960s Explosion
 - New Frontier, Great Society; involvement, escalation, home front, withdrawal
- XI. The Unfinished Journey: Contemporary America, ca. 1975-present
 - Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Clinton, the Bushes, Obama: domestic and foreign policy, globalization

Proficiencies:

1. Evaluate data from primary and secondary sources and reach justifiable conclusions about historical events.
2. Apply geographical themes of location, place, movement, human-environmental interaction, and regions to American history.
3. Compare and contrast the credibility of divergent interpretations of an historical event, such as the decision to drop the atomic bombs, in terms of available evidence.
4. Analyze the interaction of foreign and domestic policy in a specific time period.
5. Identify specific historical terms in service of analyzing events; for example: domino theory, Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, undeclared war, and Vietnamization to discuss aspects of America's involvement in the Vietnam War.
6. Develop study skills and habits including skills in gathering, organizing, and using, information to write and speak more effectively.
7. Explain the impact of science and technology on the life of Americans in various time periods.
8. Analyze how various historians may weigh causal factors differently and why historical interpretations may change over time.
9. Recognize examples of the following U.S. policies during different periods in our history: neutrality, isolation, international conflict and international cooperation.
10. Write essays, prepare multimedia presentations, and engage in project-based learning activities.
11. Explain how the historical development of the United States continues to take place in a global context through the connection between world events and the role of the United States.
12. Explore current methods of research, using the computer and use a variety of technologies as tools for learning.

13. Constructively collaborate with peers by sharing ideas, examples, and insights productively and responsibly in discussions.
14. Constructively collaborate with peers on group work and projects.

Evaluation & Assessment:

Student learning incorporates a variety of methods, strategies and skills. Therefore, in an attempt to accurately evaluate student achievement, a wide array of formative and summative assessments will be used to address the needs of the classroom population in the grading of students. They will fall into these categories. Marking period calculation will be based upon a percentage-based, weighted system. Assignments will be broken down as follows:

- Homework: 15%
- Tests/Quizzes: 55%
- Projects/Presentations/Essays: 30%

The Final Grade will consist of each marking period (22.5% each), the midterm exam (5%) and the final exam (5%).