

## **“What will we be learning in your class?”**

Advanced Placement United States History Syllabus

**Course Text:** *American History, A Survey*, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, Brinkley, Alan, McGraw Hill Publishing, Boston, 2007.

*Students are HIGHLY recommended to purchase an AP US History review book. These have proven invaluable to students in previous years and are readily found, used, on the web for around \$15.00.*

**Readings:** Throughout the course, outside readings will be provided. These will be given in handouts and/or available through student website at [www.edline.net](http://www.edline.net). Login information for Edline will be provided early in the course.

**Course description:** AP US History provides college level coursework in United States History. Students are prepared for the Advanced Placement test in May which may provide them with college credit at some universities by achieving a certain grade. Throughout the course, students will develop skills in discussion, interpreting documents, research, analysis, and critical essay writing. Topics studied in this course are listed on the general Calendar below.

**Course Themes:** Throughout the course, students will discuss and assess the role the following common themes play in American History. Students will evaluate how these themes impact and are impacted by events in American History.

- American Identity – What is an American?
- American Diversity – Who are Americans? How are they represented?
- Culture – What is American culture?
- Demographic Changes – How has America changed over time?
- Economic Changes – How do Americans make a living?
- Environment – How do our surroundings affect Americans?
- Globalization – How are Americans linked to the rest of the world?
- Politics & Citizenship – How is America governed? How do Americans participate in our government?
- Reform – How does America change and move forward?
- Religion – In what do Americans believe?
- Slavery – How did slavery affect America?
- War and Diplomacy – How has foreign policy and conflict affected America?

**Course Grading and Schedule:** Students will be assessed in a variety of manners. The bulk of the grade will come from written essays and in class tests. Pop quizzes over reading materials will also occur throughout the semester. A list of all assignments and when they are due will be placed on Edline, along with a daily calendar. Students who are absent should consult Edline to see what they missed in class. All assignments will have a point value. Completing the assignment correctly and on time will earn all of the points.

The course will follow the general schedule below. Changes may occur throughout the semester. Included are readings for each unit and due dates for major assignments and tests. A more specific schedule of readings will be provided to students before each unit. All schedules and readings can be accessed through Edline.

### **Week 1: Strategies for Success & Pre-Columbian America**

**Content:** Early inhabitants of the Americas, American Indian empires in Mesoamerica, the Southwest, and the Mississippi Valley, American Indian cultures of North America at the time of European contact, First European contacts with American Indians, Spain's empire in North America, French colonization of Canada

**Readings:**

Brinkley, Chapter 1: The Meeting of Cultures

**Assignments:**

- Use Five Types of Note-taking Assignment to find a note-taking style you can use. Take notes on pages 23-31 & 33-40 using one of the styles. (Due 8/31)
  - Introduce "Guest Lecturer" assignment. Students are given a character in American History and play that character in a Q & A session at some point in the semester. Characters range from presidents to everyday people in American History.
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### **Unit 1: The Colonial Period**

**Content:** From servitude to slavery in the Chesapeake region, Religious diversity in the American colonies, Resistance to colonial authority: Bacon's Rebellion, the Glorious Revolution, and the Pueblo Revolt, Population growth and immigration, Transatlantic trade and the growth of seaports The eighteenth-century back country, Growth of plantation economies and slave societies The Enlightenment and the Great Awakening, Colonial governments and imperial policy in British North America

**Readings:**

Brinkley, Chapter 2: "*Transplantations*" and *Borderlands*  
Brinkley, Chapter 3: *Society and Culture in Provincial America*

**Assignments:**

- Historical Analysis: McDougall *Let Freedom Ring* selection – compare the main types of colonists and their cultural identity. (Due 9/6)
  - Colonial Slavery Free Response Question (**FRQ**) Assigned 9/7 Bring Rough Draft of Essay to class on 9/12. (Essay Deadline – 9/14)
  - **Unit Test (Multiple Choice): 9/13**
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### **Unit 2: The Revolutionary War and its Origins**

**Content:** The French and Indian War, The Imperial Crisis and resistance to Britain, The War for Independence, State constitutions and the Articles of Confederation

**Readings:**

Brinkley, Chapter 4: *The Empire in Transition*  
Brinkley, Chapter 5: *The American Revolution*

**Assignments:**

- Historical Analysis, Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* (due 9/19)
  - Historical Analysis, Zinn, Chapter 4 "Tyranny is Tyranny" (due 9/20)
  - Causes of Rebellion FRQ Assigned 9/16 (Essay Deadline – 9/23)
  - **Unit Test (Multiple Choice): 9/22**
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### **Unit 3: Creating a Government**

**Content:** The federal Constitution, Washington, Hamilton, and shaping of the national government, Emergence of political parties: Federalists and Republicans, Republican Motherhood and education

## AP US History Syllabus

for women, Beginnings of the Second Great Awakening, Significance of Jefferson's presidency, Expansion into the trans-Appalachian West; American Indian resistance, Growth of slavery and free Black communities, The War of 1812 and its consequences

### Readings:

Brinkley, Chapter 6: *The Constitution and the New Republic*  
Brinkley, Chapter 7: *The Jeffersonian Era*

### Assignments:

- Federalist #10 assignment (due 9/22)
- Historical Analysis, Paul Johnson "History of the American People" (due 9/28)
- Washington's Farewell Address assignment (due 10/3)
- Federalist Era FRQ Assigned 9/28 (Essay Deadline – 10/10)
- **Unit Test (Multiple Choice): 10/7**

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## Unit 4: Nationalism, Sectionalism and the Rise of the Common Man

**Content:** Emergence of the second party system, Federal authority and its opponents: judicial federalism, the Bank War, tariff controversy, and states' rights debates, Jacksonian democracy and its successes and limitations, Forced removal of American Indians to the trans-Mississippi West, Evangelical Protestant revivalism, Social reforms, Ideals of domesticity, Transcendentalism and utopian communities, American Renaissance: literary and artistic expressions

### Readings:

Brinkley, Chapter 8: *Varieties of American Nationalism*  
Brinkley, Chapter 9: *Jacksonian America*  
Brinkley, Chapter 12: *Antebellum Culture and Reform*

### Assignments:

- De Tocqueville assignment – "Is De Tocqueville praising or dissing the USA?" (due 10/10)
- Social Reform Document Based Question (**DBQ**) Assigned 10/18 (Essay Deadline – 10/24)
- **Unit Test (Multiple Choice): 10/17**

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## Unit 5: Antebellum America

**Content:** The transportation revolution and creation of a national market economy, Beginnings of industrialization and changes in social and class structures, Immigration and nativist reaction, Planters, yeoman farmers, and slaves in the cotton South, Western migration and cultural interactions,

### Readings:

Brinkley, Chapter 10: *America's Economic Revolution*  
Brinkley, Chapter 11: *Cotton, Slavery and the Old South*  
Brinkley, Chapter 13: *The Impending Crisis*

### Assignments:

- Sectionalism Venn Diagram Assigned 10/24 (due 10/27)
- **Unit Test (Short Answer): 11/1**

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## Unit 6: The Causes of the Civil War

**Content:** Territorial acquisitions, Early U.S. imperialism: the Mexican War, Pro- and antislavery

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arguments and conflicts, Compromise of 1850 and popular sovereignty, The Kansas–Nebraska Act and the emergence of the Republican Party, Abraham Lincoln, the election of 1860, and secession

### Readings:

Brinkley, Chapter 13: *The Impending Crisis*

### Assignments:

- Literature Analysis: *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (excerpt) (Due 11/4)
  - Historical Analysis, Davidson, “The Madness of John Brown” (due 11/7)
  - **Unit Test (In Class FRQ): 11/9**
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## Unit 7: Civil War & Reconstruction

**Contents:** Two societies at war: mobilization, resources, and internal dissent, Military strategies and foreign diplomacy, Emancipation and the role of African Americans in the war, Social, political, and economic effects of war in the North, South, and West, Presidential and Radical Reconstruction, Southern state governments: aspirations, achievements, failures, Role of African Americans in politics, education, and the economy, Compromise of 1877, Impact of Reconstruction

### Readings:

Brinkley, Chapter 14: *The Civil War*

Brinkley, Chapter 15: *Reconstruction and the New South*

### Assignments:

- Historical research: Civil War Project (due 11/28)
  - **Short Answer Quest on Civil War: 11/16**
  - **Unit Test (In Class DBQ): 11/21**
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## Unit 8: The Settlement of the West

**Contents:** Reconfiguration of southern agriculture: sharecropping and crop-lien system, Expansion of manufacturing and industrialization, The politics of segregation: Jim Crow and disfranchisement, Expansion and development of western railroads, Competitors for the West: miners, ranchers, homesteaders, and American Indians, Government policy toward American Indians, Gender, race, and ethnicity in the far West, Environmental impacts of western settlement

### Readings:

Brinkley, Chapter 15: *Reconstruction and the New South*

Brinkley, Chapter 16: *The Conquest of the Far West*

### Assignments:

- Source Analysis: Frederick Jackson Turner’s Frontier Thesis (excerpt) (Due 11/30)
  - **Western Movement FRQ Assigned 12/18 (Essay Deadline – 12/2)**
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## Unit 9: The Age of Industry

**Contents:** Corporate consolidation of industry, Effects of technological development on the worker and workplace, Labor and unions, National politics and influence of corporate power, Migration and immigration: the changing face of the nation, Proponents and opponents of the new order, e.g., Social Darwinism and Social Gospel

### Readings:

Brinkley, Chapter 17: *Industrial Supremacy*

Alger, Horatio: *Ragged Dick*

### Assignments:

- Write your own Horatio Alger story (due 12/5)

## AP US History Syllabus

- Historical Analysis – Zinn, Chapter 11, “Robber Barons & Rebels” (Due 12/7)
  - **Unit Test (In Class FRQ): 12/8**
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### **Unit 10: The City and the Country**

**General Contents:** Urbanization and the lure of the city, City problems and machine politics  
Intellectual and cultural movements and popular entertainment

**Readings:**

- Brinkley, Chapter 18: *The Age of the City*
- Brinkley, Chapter 19: *From Stalemate to Crisis*

**Assignments:**

- **Unit Test (In Class FRQ): 12/16**
  - Winter Holiday Project –Assigned 12/9/11 (Project Deadline 1/2/12)
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### **Unit 11: The American Empire**

**General Contents:** American imperialism: political and economic expansion,

**Readings:**

- Brinkley, Chapter 20: *The Imperial Republic*
- Primary Sources: Treaty of Paris Debate (excerpts from Congressional speeches,)

**Assignments:**

- In Class simulation of Treaty of Paris Debate (12/21)
  - **Unit Test (In Class DBQ): – 1/23**
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### **Unit 12: The Progressive Era**

**Contents:** Muckrakers, impact of Populism, local, statewide, & national reform, Settlement Houses, Scientific management & reform, Trustbusting, NAACP & Niagara movement, female suffrage, education and reform, conservation, the end of laissez faire politics

**Readings:**

- Brinkley, Chapter 21: *The Rise of Progressivism*
- Brinkley, Chapter 22: *The Battle for National Reform*
- Primary Sources: *The Jungle* (excerpts), Riis photographs,

**Assignments:**

- Progressive Era monument – design a cereal box to a progressive or progressive era movement. (Due 2/9/12)
  - **Unit Test (MC) - 2/10/12**
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**First Semester Final Exam (Multiple Choice and College Board  
Essay (FRQ or DBQ) January, 2012**

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**Advanced Placement US History Exam Format  
May 11, 2012**

General: The AP US History Exam is broken up into 3 major sections: Multiple Choice, the Document Based Question, and two Free Response questions.

**Objective Section:** 80 multiple-choice questions. Test section lasts 55 minutes. This accounts for 50% of final grade

General breakdown of questions by topic

35% political questions

35% social change questions

15% diplomatic history questions

10% economic questions

5% cultural and intellectual history questions

General breakdown of questions by era

Colonial Era to 1789: 19%

1790 to 1865: 23%

1866 to 1914: 21%

1915 to Present: 36%

*A Short Break occurs at this point in the testing process*

**Free Response Essay Section:** 3 Free Response questions. Test Section lasts 135 minutes. This section accounts for 50% of final grade.

One Document Based Question (DBQ): Students are given a central question and a series of documents to help them support their thesis. Students are given 60 minutes to complete this section. This section accounts for 25% of final grade.

Two Free Response Essays: Students select two essay questions from four possible choices. One essay will be from the pre-1865 time period while the other is from the post-1865 time period. No topics will deal exclusively with the years after 1975. Each response accounts for 12.5% of final grade.

**Scoring the AP US History Exam**

AP US History Exams are scored on a 5-point scale. The highest possible score is a 5. The Objective Section is scored by Scan-Tron. A panel of college professors and AP teachers scores written sections. An average of the objective score and free response score is then tallied and equated to a 5-point scale.

**Receiving Credit for AP Exams**

Generally, most colleges offer credit for college courses for any score of a 4 or a 5 on AP Exams. Some colleges offer credit for a score of a 3 on the exam. In some cases, schools may request student responses to the free response section before offering credit.