

# ADVANCED PLACEMENT AMERICAN HISTORY

2003-2004 COURSE OUTLINE MR. T. CUNNINGHAM

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## Overview

Advanced Placement American History is an opportunity for the motivated and talented Social Studies student to grapple with the ideas that brought rise to our nation and the issues that it faces in its fourth century. Rather than merely absorbing facts, students will actually learn to *do history*: to use the methods historians use to bring insight and analysis to events in our nation's past. AP American History will cover the whole scope of the history of the United States, from colonial times to the present, in preparation for students to take the AP American History examination in May 2004. Awareness, analysis, and application of current events will also be a constant emphasis, enlightened by *CNN Student News*, newspapers, the Internet, and other resources.

## Materials

Our main resource is the tenth edition of the classic AP text *The American Pageant* by David M. Kennedy, Lisabeth Cohen, and Thomas A. Bailey (Houghton Mifflin, 2002). *Pageant* is a college-level book, but one which is highly readable and designed to stir discussion and perhaps even dissent! Two volumes of primary source materials, *The American Spirit*, are keyed to the text and provide on-the-scene insights experienced by characters in America's past. A variety of materials will also be made available to help students prepare for the AP American History exam.

## Activities & Assessment

Throughout the course the main emphasis will be on developing the knowledge base and skills one needs to analyze history and to succeed in history courses at a higher level. These activities and skills will include:

- Reading, analyzing, and interpreting in essays primary sources relevant to topics of study
- Reading monographs from top authors in their fields
- Knowing the names and arguments of schools of historiography and individual historians
- Writing a formal research paper on an appropriate topic of your choosing, which is a requirement for graduation as well as for passing the course
- Engaging in peer review of each others' work

Completion of the assigned readings and written work is ***absolutely essential*** in this course in order for students to participate meaningfully in doing history. Students must be prepared to discuss, either orally or in writing, the assigned topics at all times. Class participation is not optional! The pace of this course will be rigorous, and, no, we will *not* discuss every topic that is on the unit test or AP exam in class (but you *will* read about them). We will discuss some periods and topics in more depth than others. Students who are having difficulty keeping up with the material are encouraged to seek extra help whenever needed.

Each unit of study will usually end with a test containing both objective and essay questions. Additionally or in place of these tests, there will be periodic Document Based Questions (DBQs) that must be completed to prepare for the AP exam. Other periodic assignments will include study guides for units, essays, discussion questions, book reviews, oral presentations, and class projects.

Each assignment is given a point value that determines its weight in relation to other assignments. Every effort will be made to make the grading process as easy to understand as possible, and each marking period will end with a simple calculation of points earned out of points possible. Additionally, the Real World assignment (see separate description) and class participation will each

comprise 5% of the marking period grade. There will not be re-testing in Honors U.S. History. Due to its rigor, expect your grades to be slightly lower in this class than they would be in a regular one, but remember that the grade is weighted by 10% at the end of the year.

## **Course of Study (tentative)**

### **Covered in Review:**

- Ch. 1: New World Beginnings*
- Ch. 2: The Planting of English America*
- Ch. 3: Settling the Northern Colonies*
- Ch. 4: American Life in the Seventeenth Century*
- Ch. 5: Colonial Society on the Eve of the Revolution*

### **Independence**

- Ch. 6: The Duel for North America
- Ch. 7: The Road to Revolution
- Ch. 8: America Secedes From the Empire

### **Defining Democracy**

- Ch. 9: The Confederation and the Constitution
- Ch. 10: Launching the New Ship of State

### **Age of Jefferson**

- Ch. 11: The Triumphs and Travails of the Jeffersonian Republic
- Ch. 12: The Second War for Independence and the Upsurge of Nationalism

### **Age of Jackson/American Life: the first 70 years**

- Ch. 13: The Rise of Mass Democracy
- Ch. 14: Forging the National Economy
- Ch. 15: The Ferment of Reform and Culture

### **Slavery & Sectionalism 1**

- Ch. 16: The South and the Slavery Controversy
- Ch. 17: Manifest Destiny & Its Legacy, 1841-48

### **Slavery & Sectionalism 2**

- Ch. 18: Renewing the Sectional Struggle, 1848-1854
- Ch. 19: Drifting Toward Disunion, 1854-1861

### **Civil War and Reconstruction**

- Ch. 20: Girding for War: The North and the South, 1861-65
- Ch. 21: The Furnace of Civil War

### **Reconstruction**

- Ch. 22: The Ordeal of Reconstruction
- Ch. 23: Political Paralysis in the Gilded Age, 1869-1899

### **The Industrial Revolution in America**

- Ch. 24: Industry Comes of Age, 1865-1900
- Ch. 25: America Moves to the City, 1865-1900
- Ch. 26: The Great West and the Agricultural Revolution

### **A World Power?**

- Ch. 27: The Path of Empire
- Ch. 28: America on the World Stage, 1899-1909

### **The Progressive Era**

- Ch. 29: Progressivism and the Republican Roosevelt
- Ch. 30: Wilsonian Progressivism at Home and Abroad

### **The Great War and Its Aftermath**

- Ch. 31: The War to End War, 1917-1918
- Ch. 32: American Life in the "Roaring Twenties"

### **Boom and Bust**

- Ch. 33: The Politics of Boom and Bust, 1920-1932
- Ch. 34: The Great Depression and the New Deal

### **World War**

- Ch. 35: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Shadow of War
- Ch. 36: America in World War II

### **Cold War**

- Ch. 37: The Cold War Begins
- Ch. 38: The Eisenhower Era, 1953-1960

### **The 1960s and 1970s**

- Ch. 39: The Stormy Sixties
- Ch. 40: The Stalemated Seventies

### **The 1980s to the Millennium**

- Ch. 41: The Resurgence of Conservatism
- Ch. 42: The American People Face a New Century