In AP U.S. History, students investigate the development of American economics, politics, and culture through historical analysis grounded in primary sources, research, and writing. The equivalent of an introductory college-level course, AP U.S. History prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in history, political science, economics, sociology, and law.

Through the examination of historical themes and the application of historical thinking skills, students learn to connect specific people, places, events, and ideas to the larger trends of U.S. history. Critical-reading activities, feedback-rich instruction, and application-oriented assignments hone students’ ability to reason chronologically, to interpret historical sources, and to construct well-supported historical arguments. Students write throughout the course, responding to primary and secondary sources through journal entries, essays, and visual presentations of historical content. In discussion activities, students respond to the positions of others while staking and defending claims of their own. Robust scaffolding, rigorous instruction, relevant material, and regular opportunities for active learning ensure that students can achieve mastery of the skills necessary to excel on the AP exam.

This course has been authorized by the College Board® to use the AP designation.

*Advanced Placement® and AP® are registered trademarks and/or owned by the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse this product.

Length: Two semesters

UNIT 1: TRANSFORMATION IN NORTH AMERICA: 1491 – 1754
- Lesson 1: Thinking like a Historian
- Lesson 2: First Peoples of North America
- Lesson 3: European Colonialism in North America
- Lesson 4: Labor in British Colonial America
- Lesson 5: Struggle for Power in North America

UNIT 2: BIRTH OF A NEW NATION: 1754 – 1800
- Lesson 1: The Road to Independence
- Lesson 2: Declaring and Winning Independence
- Lesson 3: Republican Governments
- Lesson 4: Political Debates in the Early Republic

UNIT 3: GROWING PAINS OF THE NEW REPUBLIC: 1800 – 1848
- Lesson 1: Defining Democracy: 1800 – 1848
- Lesson 2: The Early Industrial Revolution
- Lesson 3: Creating a Republican Culture
- Lesson 4: Slavery and Southern Expansion
- Lesson 5: Religion and Reform

UNIT 4: EXPANSION, WAR, AND RECONSTRUCTION: 1844 – 1877
- Lesson 1: Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion
- Lesson 2: Sectional Crisis
- Lesson 3: The Civil War
- Lesson 4: Reconstruction and the New South
UNIT 5: SEMESTER WRAP-UP
- Lesson 1: Semester Wrap-Up

UNIT 6: INDUSTRIALIZATION AND CULTURE CHANGE: 1865 – 1900
- Lesson 1: Conquering a Continent
- Lesson 2: Industrial America
- Lesson 3: American Culture in the Gilded Age
- Lesson 4: Urbanization
- Lesson 5: Politics of the Gilded Age

UNIT 7: DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES: 1890 – 1945
- Lesson 1: Progressivism
- Lesson 2: The United States Becomes a World Power
- Lesson 3: World War I
- Lesson 4: The 1920s
- Lesson 5: The Great Depression and the New Deal
- Lesson 6: World War II
- Lesson 7: Wrap-Up: Domestic and Global Challenges: 1890 – 1945

- Lesson 1: Cold War America
- Lesson 2: Triumph of the Middle Class
- Lesson 3: The Civil Rights Movement
- Lesson 4: The 1960s
- Lesson 5: The Conservative-Liberal Divide

- Lesson 1: The New Conservatism
- Lesson 2: A Global Society
- Lesson 3: Wrap-Up: Global Capitalism and Redefining the Nation: 1980 – Present

UNIT 10: SEMESTER WRAP-UP
- Lesson 1: Semester Wrap-Up