

Syllabus and Course Outline

Course: AP U.S. History

Instructor: Joseph Chambers

School Year: 2024-2025

Course Description: AP U.S. History is an advanced level social studies course that fulfills the state graduation requirement in U.S. history as well as laying the groundwork for students to choose to move on to IB History of the Americas during their senior year. The AP course description from the College Board is as follows:

In AP U.S. History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change. The course also provides eight themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures.

Course Objectives: In accordance with the Missouri Learning Standards, the students will center on the following themes:

1. Tools of Social Science Inquiry
2. Re-emerging America
3. Emerging globally
4. Great Depression and WWII
5. The American Stage
6. Contemporary America

Each of these themes will develop around strands of: History: Continuity and Change, Government Systems and Principles, Geographic Study, Economic Concepts, and People, Groups and Cultures

Topics: The AP course will cover the following historical time periods and themes:

- Period 1: 1491–1607
- Period 2: 1607–1754
- Period 3: 1754–1800
- Period 4: 1800–1848
- Period 5: 1844–1877
- Period 6: 1865–1898
- Period 7: 1890–1945
- Period 8: 1945–1980
- Period 9: 1980–Present

- Theme 1: American and national identity
- Theme 2: Work, exchange, and technology
- Theme 3: Geography and the environment
- Theme 4: Migration and settlement
- Theme 5: Politics and power
- Theme 6: America in the world
- Theme 7: American and regional culture
- Theme 8: Social structures

In addition, the course will cover the following I.B. regional study topics for those moving on to History of the Americas:

- Independence movements (1763-1830)
- Nation-building and challenges (c1780-1870)
- United States' Civil War: Causes, course, and effects (1840-1877)
- The development of modern nations (1865-1929)
- Emergence of the Americas in global affairs (1880-1929)
- The Great Depression and the Americas (mid 1920s–1939)
- The Second World War and the Americas (1933–1945)
- Political developments in the United States (1945–1980)
- The Cold War and the Americas (1945–1981)
- Civil rights and social movements in the Americas post-1945
- The Americas (1980–2005)

Assessment: All of the work in AP U.S. History will be assigned a point value. The number of points earned over the course of the semester will be divided by the total number of points possible to give a percentage grade. As per Metro policy, letter grades will be given as follows:

90%-100%	= A
80%-89%	= B
70%-79%	= C
69% ↓	= F

Work will include tests, papers, quizzes over reading assignments, participation in class discussions, and special projects. Students will be assessed on their knowledge of the historical subject matter as well as the quality and clarity of their writing.

Resources: The primary text for the course will be *The American Pageant: A History of the American People*, 17th ed. by David M. Kennedy and Lizabeth Cohen. This text will be supplemented with readings from other books and articles as well as primary sources.

Classroom Procedures:

Attendance and tardiness: All students are expected to be in class and on time every day. Any work missed due to tardiness can only be made up if the student arranges for a makeup quiz or assignment that day.

Make-up policy: Students will be allowed to make up work that they missed due to an excused absence, but it is the student's responsibility to find out what work was missed. Tests or quizzes may only be made up outside of regular class time by appointment. Work that is missed due to unexcused absence may not be made up.

Late work: Any work that is not turned in at the beginning of the class period in which it is due will be subject to a 25% deduction in points if one day late and 50% for two or three days. (School days, not class meetings.) Work that is more than three days late will not be accepted.

Academic Dishonesty: Metro has extremely high regard for academic integrity and, as such, has zero tolerance for any and all forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to, all forms of cheating on any assessments, essays, or assignments (copying, taking pictures, group chats with answers, etc.), plagiarism, and any other unethical academic behavior. Any student in violation will receive no credit (zero/F letter grade), a family meeting will be scheduled, and a notation of the violation will be in the student's school record. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as Chat GPT, has the potential for misuse and often borders on plagiarism. At Metro, we utilize Turnitin to disrupt plagiarism and ensure the integrity of all student work. If it is deemed that a student has used any AI tool to complete an assignment, the student will receive no credit (zero/F letter grade), a family meeting will be scheduled, as

well as a notation of the violation in the student's school record. Any academic dishonesty violation will affect recommendations written by the school for any student applying for post-secondary institutions, scholarships, and other educational programs.

Questions or concerns:

If any student or their parent or guardian has any questions or concerns, they should feel free to contact Mr. Chambers by e-mail at joseph.chambers@slps.org or by phone at Metro at (314) 534-3894. Assignments and course documents are available at www.slps.org/jchambers.