

AP United States History (APUSH) 2025-2026



Course Description: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-united-states-history>

AP U.S. History is an introductory college-level U.S. history course. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. history from c. 1491 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like 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.

To succeed in this course, students should demonstrate:

Skill	Description
1. Developments and Processes	Identify and explain historical developments and processes.
2. Sourcing and Situation	Analyze sourcing and situation of primary and secondary sources.
3. Claims and Evidence in Sources	Analyze arguments in primary and secondary sources.
4. Contextualization	Analyze the contexts of historical events, developments, or processes.
5. Making Connections	Using historical reasoning processes (comparison, causation, continuity and change), analyze patterns and connections between and among historical developments and processes.
6. Argumentation	Develop an argument.

Grading Policies, Assessments, and AP Exam: 9 Units of Study

- **Habits of Work**- ability to not have any WCD out during class
- **Formative Assessments**- FRQ timed writing assignment – 1 per week (Short Answer, Long Essay, DBQ), any discussion or research-based assignment
- **Summative Assessments** – Multiple Choice + FRQ at the end of each unit (9 exams), about 1 per month.

AP Exam Description and Sample Questions

- Exam Overview - This is a fully digital exam. Students complete multiple-choice and free-response questions in the Bluebook testing app, with all responses automatically submitted at the end of the exam.
- Exam questions assess the course concepts and skills outlined in the course framework. For more information, download the [AP U.S. History Course and Exam Description \(.pdf\)](#) (CED). Scoring rubrics—general scoring criteria for the document-based and long essay questions, regardless of specific question prompt—are available in the CED.

Resources to review this summer:

- [Gilder-Lehrman APUSH Study Guide](#)

Books to Read:

- *A Stranger Among Saints: Stephen Hopkins, the Man Who Survived Jamestown and Saved Plymouth* (Jonathan Mack)
- *Revolutionary Characters: What Made the Founders Different* (Gordon Wood)
- *1776* (David McCullough)
- *A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution* (Carol Berkin)



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