

Course Title:	AP United States History
Grade(s):	11

Course Description
The course content for AP U.S. History is organized into commonly taught units of study and provides a chronological sequence for the course. These units comprise the content and conceptual understandings that colleges and universities typically expect students to master to qualify for college credit and/or placement. This content is grounded in themes, which are cross-cutting concepts that build conceptual understanding and spiral throughout the course. The AP historical thinking skills describe what students should be able to do while exploring course concepts. The unit guides embed and spiral these skills throughout the course, providing students with a way to integrate the skills into the course content with sufficient repetition to prepare students to transfer those skills when taking the AP Exam.
Approved Curricular Materials/Textbook(s)
<i>Give Me Liberty: An American History</i> by Foner, DuVal and McGirr <i>Portrait of America: Vol I to 1877/Vol II from 1865</i> by Oates <i>American Issues: A Documentary Reader</i> by Dollar

Unit Title	Unit Description (Include Unit Objectives)	Unit Pacing
Unit 1: 1491–1607	Contact among Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans resulted in the Columbian Exchange and significant social, cultural, and political changes on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. European expansion into the Western Hemisphere generated intense social, religious, political, and economic competition and changes within European societies. The Columbian Exchange and development of the Spanish Empire in the Western Hemisphere resulted in extensive demographic, economic, and social changes. In their interactions, Europeans and Native Americans asserted divergent worldviews regarding issues such as religion, gender roles, family, land use, and power.	7 hrs (5 sessions) Aug/Sept

Unit 2: 1607–1754	Competition over resources between European rivals and American Indians encouraged industry and trade and led to conflict in the Americas. The British colonies participated in political, social, cultural, and economic exchanges with Great Britain that encouraged both stronger bonds with Britain and resistance to Britain's control. Transatlantic commercial, religious, philosophical, and political exchanges led residents of the British colonies to evolve in their political and cultural attitudes as they became increasingly tied to Britain and one another. Like other European empires in the Americas that participated in the Atlantic slave trade, the English colonies developed a system of slavery that reflected the specific economic, demographic, and geographic characteristics of those colonies.	13 hrs (9 sessions) Sept
Unit 3: 1754–1800	The American Revolution's democratic and republican ideals inspired new experiments with different forms of government. The ideals that inspired the revolutionary cause reflected new beliefs about politics, religion, and society that had been developing over the course of the 18th century. After declaring independence, American political leaders created new constitutions and declarations of rights that articulated the role of the state and federal governments while protecting individual liberties and limiting both centralized power and excessive popular influence. New forms of national culture and political institutions developed in the United States alongside continued regional variations and differences, political, social, and foreign policy issues. Migration within North America and competition over resources, boundaries, and trade intensified conflicts among peoples and nations. In the decades after American independence, interactions among different groups resulted in competition for resources, shifting alliances, and cultural blending. The continued presence of European powers in North America challenged the United States to find ways to safeguard its borders, maintain neutral trading rights, and promote its economic interests.	15 hrs (11 sessions) Sept/Oct
Unit 4: 1800–1848	Innovations in technology, agriculture, and commerce powerfully accelerated the American economy, precipitating profound changes to U.S. society. New transportation systems and technologies dramatically expanded manufacturing and agricultural production. The changes caused by the market revolution had significant effects on U.S. society, workers' lives, and gender and family relations. Economic development shaped settlement and trade patterns, helping to unify the	12 hrs (9 sessions) Oct

	nation while also encouraging the growth of different regions. The U.S. interest in increasing foreign trade and expanding its national borders shaped the nation's foreign policy and spurred government and private initiatives. Struggling to create an independent global presence, the United States sought to claim territory throughout the North American continent and promote foreign trade. The United States' acquisition of lands in the West gave rise to contests over the extension of slavery into new territories.	
Unit 5: 1844–1877	Intensified by expansion and deepening regional divisions, debates over slavery and other economic, cultural, and political issues led the nation into civil war. Ideological and economic differences over slavery produced an array of diverging responses from Americans in the North and the South. Debates over slavery came to dominate political discussion in the 1850s, culminating in the bitter election of 1860 and the secession of Southern states. The Union victory in the Civil War and the contested reconstruction of the South settled the issues of slavery and secession, but left unresolved many questions about the power of the federal government and citizenship. The North's greater manpower and industrial resources, the leadership of Abraham Lincoln and others, and the decision to emancipate enslaved people eventually led to the Union military victory over the Confederacy in the devastating Civil War. Reconstruction and the Civil War ended slavery, altered relationships between the states and the federal government, and led to debates over definitions of citizenship, particularly regarding the rights of African Americans, women, and other minorities.	16 hrs (12 sessions) Nov
Unit 6: 1865–1898	The migrations that accompanied industrialization transformed both urban and rural areas of the United States and caused dramatic social and cultural change. International and internal migration increased urban populations and fostered the growth of a new urban culture. Larger numbers of migrants moved to the West in search of land and economic opportunity, frequently provoking competition and violent conflict. The Gilded Age produced new cultural and intellectual movements, public reform, and political debates over economic and social policies. New cultural and intellectual movements both buttressed and challenged the social order of the Gilded Age. Dramatic social changes in the period inspired political debates over citizenship, corruption, and the proper relationship between business and government.	15 hrs (11 sessions) Dec

Unit 7: 1890–1945	Innovations in communications and technology contributed to the growth of mass culture, while significant changes occurred in internal and international migration patterns. Popular culture grew in influence in U.S. society, even as debates increased over the effects of culture on public values, morals, and American national identity. Economic pressures, global events, and political developments caused sharp variations in the numbers, sources, and experiences of both international and internal migrants. Participation in a series of global conflicts propelled the United States into a position of international power while renewing domestic debates over the nation's proper role in the world. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, new U.S. territorial ambitions and acquisitions in the Western Hemisphere and the Pacific accompanied heightened public debates over America's role in the world. World War I and its aftermath intensified ongoing debates about the nation's role in the world and how best to achieve national security and pursue American interests. U.S. participation in World War II transformed American society, while the victory of the United States and its allies over the Axis powers vaulted the U.S. into a position of global, political, and military leadership.	22 hrs (16 sessions) Jan/Feb
Unit 8: 1945–1980	New movements for civil rights and liberal efforts to expand the role of government generated a range of political and cultural responses. Seeking to fulfill Reconstruction-era promises, civil rights activists and political leaders achieved some legal and political successes in ending segregation, although progress toward racial equality was slow. Responding to social conditions and the African American civil rights movement, a variety of movements emerged that focused on issues of identity, social justice, and the environment. Liberalism influenced postwar and court decisions, but it came under increasing attack from the left as well as from a resurgent conservative movement. Postwar economic and demographic changes had far-reaching consequences for American society, politics, and culture. Rapid economic and social changes in American society fostered a sense of optimism in the postwar years. New demographic and social developments, along with anxieties over the Cold War, changed U.S. culture and led to significant political and moral debates that sharply divided the nation.	15 hrs (11 sessions) Feb/March/April
Unit 9: 1980–Present	The end of the Cold War and new challenges to U.S. leadership forced the nation to redefine foreign policy and its role in the world. The Reagan administration promoted an interventionist foreign policy that continued in later administrations,	5 hrs (4 sessions) April/May

	even after the end of the Cold War. Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, U.S. foreign policy efforts focused on fighting terrorism around the world.	
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