AP U.S. History E-Learning Plans

Students are not confined to any particular order when choosing. Choose any period that you may need a refresher on or if we are currently on a particular period.

Period 1 (1491–1607) & Period 2 (1607–1754)

Engaging Media & Videos

- **Video Lesson:** Black Legend, Native Americans, and Spaniards: Crash Course US History #1
- **Feature Film / Miniseries:** *Pocahontas* (Disney) for evaluating historical myth vs. primary sources, or *Desperate Crossing: The Untold Story of the Mayflower* (History Channel).
- **Short Film / Docudrama:** *Nightkeeper* or clips from PBS's *American Experience: We Shall Remain* (Episode 1: "After the Mayflower").

Current Event Connection Assignment

- **Prompt:** Research a current news article regarding tribal sovereignty disputes, indigenous land back movements, or modern resource rights (e.g., pipeline protests or water rights litigation).
- **Task:** Write a 300-word AP-style synthesis essay connecting present-day legal claims of Native American nations directly back to initial European contact models, treaties, and land encroachment strategies established in Periods 1 and 2.

Period 3 (1754–1800)

Engaging Media & Videos

- **Animated Series:** *Liberty's Kids* (Episodes covering the Declaration of Independence and Constitutional Convention).
- **Feature Film / Musical:** *Hamilton* (Disney+) or *John Adams* (HBO Miniseries, Episodes 1–3).
- **Review Video:** Heimler's History — *APUSH Unit 3 Topic Summaries (The Articles of Confederation & U.S. Constitution)*.

Current Event Connection Assignment

- **Prompt:** Locate a news article covering a current debate over the Electoral College, presidential executive orders, or a Supreme Court challenge involving originalism vs. a living Constitution.
- **Task:** Analyze how the current debate mirrors the core anti-Federalist vs. Federalist arguments published in the *Federalist Papers* and *Brutus No. 1* during the ratification period.

Period 4 (1800–1848)

Engaging Media & Videos

- **Documentary / Drama:** *Amistad* (1997) or PBS's *The Abolitionists* (American Experience).
- **Crash Course Video:** *Age of Jackson: Crash Course US History #14*.

- **Feature Film:** *The Alamo* (2004) for territorial expansion themes.

Current Event Connection Assignment

- **Prompt:** Find a contemporary news article on modern voting rights legislation, state-level voter ID requirements, or mail-in voting debates.
- **Task:** Compare these arguments to the rapid expansion of white male suffrage during the 1820s Jacksonian Democracy movement, evaluating how definitions of democratic access continue to evolve.

Period 5 (1844–1877)

Engaging Media & Videos

- **Feature Film:** *Free State of Jones* (2016) or *Glory* (1989).
- **Miniseries:** PBS's *Reconstruction: America After the Civil War* (Hosted by Henry Louis Gates Jr.).
- **Crash Course Video:** *The Civil War, Part I & II: Crash Course US History #20 & #21*.

Current Event Connection Assignment

- **Prompt:** Select a recent news story regarding equal protection litigation under the 14th Amendment (e.g., civil rights, birthright citizenship debates, or due process challenges).
- **Task:** Draft an AP-level Short Answer Question (SAQ) response that traces the constitutional origin of the specific 14th Amendment clause cited in the news story back to Radical Reconstruction policies.

Period 6 (1865–1898)

Engaging Media & Videos

- **Feature Film / Drama:** *Newsies* (1992) or *The Gilded Age* (HBO Series).
- **Documentary:** *The Men Who Built America* (History Channel) or PBS's *The American Experience: The Rockefellers*.
- **Crash Course Video:** *The Industrial Economy: Crash Course US History #23*.

Current Event Connection Assignment

- **Prompt:** Identify a current news article detailing union organizing efforts (e.g., tech, retail, or service industry strikes) or modern wealth inequality metrics.
- **Task:** Compare the motives, public perception, and counter-arguments of today's labor movements to the Knights of Labor and the American Federation of Labor (AFL) during the Gilded Age.

Period 7 (1890–1945)

Engaging Media & Videos

- **Feature Film:** *Cinderella Man* (2005) or *A League of Their Own* (1992) for WWII home front dynamics.
- **Animated / Docudrama:** *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History* by Ken Burns (Episodes 3–5).
- **Crash Course Video:** *World War II: Crash Course US History #35 & #36*.

Current Event Connection Assignment

- **Prompt:** Find a contemporary news report on federal bank regulations, federal emergency disaster relief interventions, or farm subsidies.
- **Task:** Write a 250-word analytical paragraph evaluating whether the federal government's economic mechanisms described in the article derive their constitutional precedent from New Deal alphabet agencies (e.g., FDIC, AAA, SSA).

Period 8 (1945–1980)

Engaging Media & Videos

- **Feature Film:** *Hidden Figures* (2016), *Selma* (2014), or *Thirteen Days* (2000) for the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- **Documentary:** PBS's *Eyes on the Prize* (Civil Rights Movement) or *The Vietnam War* by Ken Burns.
- **Crash Course Video:** *The Cold War: Crash Course US History #37*.

Current Event Connection Assignment

- **Prompt:** Select a current news article covering NATO operations, foreign aid allocations, or foreign military proxy conflicts.
- **Task:** Evaluate how present-day American foreign policy interventions reflect or depart from the containment doctrine established by the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan.

Period 9 (1980–Present)

Engaging Media & Videos

- **Documentary / Series:** *The 80s / The 90s / The 2000s* (CNN Original Series).
- **Feature Film / Drama:** *The Social Network* (2010) for the tech boom or *Spotlight* (2015).
- **Crash Course Video:** *Obamanomics & Modern Conservatism: Crash Course US History #47*.

Current Event Connection Assignment

- **Prompt:** Choose a major national news story from this week involving free-trade agreements, international tariffs, or national security surveillance programs.
- **Task:** Write a synthesis paragraph connecting the current event to either the conservative economic deregulation policies of the Reagan Revolution or post-9/11 legislative changes (e.g., the USA PATRIOT Act).

The Black Legend, Native Americans, and Spaniards: Crash Course US History #1 video provides a fast-paced, high-rigor overview of pre-Columbian Native American societies and early Spanish colonization, making it directly relevant for students diving into AP Period 1 content.