



Cecil County Public Schools
Division of Education Services
Serving learners, families, and the community.



Social Studies: AP United States History

Purpose of the Document: This document provides an overview of this course. The information provided below is designed to support students, parents, and the school community to understand the major content of the course and the standards used to design it. To support the needs of students, teachers may make adjustments as needed. Please contact your child's teacher and/or review the course Schoology page with your child for additional information.

Program Vision: Our vision is to foster a society of informed, skilled, engaged and productive citizens.

Program Mission: Our mission is to empower students to ask questions, make connections, solve problems and work cooperatively to become productive members of society.

Course Description: Students will investigate the full scope of American history from 1492 through the present day. Students will study the political, economic, social, geographic, and cultural developments that helped the United States become a world leader. Through inquiry, students will read extensively from primary source documents and practice technical writing to prepare for the AP U.S. History exam. To earn an AP weighted high school credit, students enrolled in an AP course must take the College Board exam administered at the conclusion of the course.

Topics at-a-Glance

Unit 1: Period 1: 1491-1607 - Students will learn about Native American societies as well as how and why Europeans first explored, and then began to colonize, the Americas.

Unit 2: Period 2: 1607-1754 - Students will study the colonies established in the New World by the Spanish, French, Dutch, and British.

Unit 3: Period 3: 1754-1800 - Students will explore the events that led to the American Revolution and the formation of the United States and examine the early years of the republic.

Unit 4: Period 4: 1800-1848 - Students will examine how the young nation developed politically, culturally and economically in this period.

Unit 5: Period 5: 1844-1977 - Students will learn how the nation expanded. Students will also explore the events that led to the secession of the Southern states and the Civil War.

Unit 6: Period 6: 1865-1898 - Students will examine the nation's economic and demographic shifts in this period and their links to cultural and political changes.

Unit 7: Period 7: 1890-1945 - Students will examine America's changing society and culture and the causes and effects of the global wars and economic meltdown of this period.

Unit 8: Period 8: 1945-1980 - Students will learn about the rivalry between the SOviet Union and the United States, the growth of various civil rights movements, and the economic, cultural and political transformation of this period.

Unit 9: Period 9: 1980-Present - Students will learn about the advance of political conservatism, developments in science and technology, and demographic shifts that had major cultural and political consequences in thai period.

Standards/ and or skills taught - Unit 1

- Students will understand the following big ideas:
 - Native American societies before European contact
 - European exploration in the New World
 - The Columbian Exchange
 - Labor, slavery, and caste in the Spanish colonial system
 - Cultural interactions between Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans

Standards/ and or skills taught - Unit 2

- Students will understand the following big ideas:
 - How different European colonies developed and expanded
 - Transatlantic trade
 - Interactions between American Indians and Europeans
 - Slavery in the British colonies
 - Colonial society and culture

Standards/ and or skills taught - Unit 3

- Students will understand the following big ideas:
 - The Seven Years' War
 - The American Revolution
 - The Articles of Confederation
 - The creation and ratification of the Constitution
 - Developing an American identity
 - Immigration to and migration within America

Standards/ and or skills taught - Unit 4

- Students will understand the following big ideas:
 - The rise of political parties
 - American foreign policy
 - Innovations in technology, agriculture, and business
 - Debates about federal power

- The Second Great Awakening
- Reform movements
- The experience of African Americans

Standards/ and or skills taught - Unit 5

- Students will understand the following big ideas:
 - Manifest Destiny
 - The Mexican–American War
 - Attempts to resolve conflicts over the spread of slavery
 - The election of 1860 and Southern secession
 - The Civil War
 - Reconstruction

Standards/ and or skills taught - Unit 6

- Students will understand the following big ideas:
 - The settlement of the West
 - The "New South"
 - The rise of industrial capitalism
 - Immigration and migration
 - Reform movements
 - Debates about the role of government

Standards/ and or skills taught - Unit 7

- Students will understand the following big ideas:
 - Debates over imperialism
 - The Progressive movement
 - World War I
 - Innovations in communications and technology in the 1920s
 - The Great Depression and the New Deal
 - World War II
 - Postwar diplomacy

Standards/ and or skills taught - Unit 8

- Students will understand the following big ideas:
 - The Cold War and the Red Scare
 - America as a world power
 - The Vietnam War
 - The Great Society
 - The African American civil rights movement
 - Youth culture of the 1960s

Standards/ and or skills taught - Unit 9

- Students will understand the following big ideas:
 - Reagan and conservatism
 - The end of the Cold War
 - Shifts in the economy

- Migration and immigration
- Challenges of the 21st century

Learn more by visiting the College Board's AP website for [AP United States History](#).

How students are graded:

- Students will be graded through a mixture of formative and summative assessments; such as:
 - Unit Assessment
 - CSET Paragraphs (**C**reate a claim, **S**et-Up a source or context, **E**vidence to support a claim, and **T**ie-In how the evidence supports the claim)
 - Source Analysis
 - Teacher assigned tasks

Resources:

- **Textbook** - American History: Connecting with the Past (Updates AP Edition, 15e), Alan Brinkely, McGraw Hill Education, 2017.

Home and School Connection

- Visit the Schoology course for your class to review content and resources that are relevant to what you are learning.
- AMSCO book - APUSH full length practice test at the back of the book. If you struggle with questions, go back to those sections of the book to read and review.
 - Read the chapters in the book dealing with the topics you have learned this year. This would be a great way to review the previously learned content.
- AP Central - go to [AP United States History THE EXAM](#) to review the exam and work through public release items from over the years
- APUSH review on YouTube
 - [College Board](#)
 - [APUSH Crash Course Review Videos](#)
 - [The Story of Economics in AP U.S. History](#)
- APUSHreview.com videos
 - [American History Chapter Review Videos](#)
- AP Classroom - log into your account and work through the practice activities
- Khan Academy - [AP US History](#)
 - Complete practice questions and watch videos to review content