

AP U.S. History (New Teachers) Course Syllabus
Silver State AP Summer Institute
June 27-30
Edward Borges: Instructor

General Course Description

AP U. S. History is the most widely taught AP course in the United States. Over 390,000 students took the AP examination in U.S. history this past spring. This survey course is the equivalent to a freshmen college level course. This summer institute will acquaint prospective and new AP U. S. History teachers with the requirements and demands of the course, which require students to read, absorb, and process an enormous amount of material in a relatively short period of time. In addition, teachers will become acquainted with ways to address the AP U. S. History curriculum, exposed to new teaching strategies and instructional techniques, and review appropriate textbooks and supplemental readers. This course should not only enable and prepare teachers to assist students to pass the AP exam, but more importantly to instruct student on advanced, analytical writing skills, higher order thinking skills, and historical analysis of trends, themes, and developments in U.S. history.

General Objectives and Goals

After completing this course, teachers will be better able to:

1. review prerequisites for students enrolling in AP U.S. History,
2. adjust course syllabus, replete with course objectives, and develop essential questions, review suggest texts and supplemental readings, and develop new writing assignments,
3. find new ways to instruct students to analyze and interpret primary source material,
4. instruct students on writing techniques and strategies in order for students to respond successfully to both general and document based essay prompts,
5. prepare Backward Design lesson plans and instructional techniques and strategies that will assist students in mastering the course content,
6. prepare students to successfully pass the AP exam in May
7. select college level U..S. History textbooks and supplemental document readers

8. acquaint themselves with ancillary curriculum and course materials
9. teach the course with substantive historical analysis of themes and problems in U.S. history
10. incorporate computer technology and Internet research into the AP curriculum
11. understand and practice the scoring techniques and procedures used by the Educational Testing Service to assess the both the multiple choice and essay portions of the 2008 exam.

Course Textbooks

Sample Textbooks (to be procured by instructor). Availability of the textbooks listed below is not guaranteed.

Divine, Robert. et. al. America: Past and Present. 6th ed. New York: Addison-Wesley Educational Publishers, Inc., 2002.

Faragher, John, et. al. Out of Many: A History of the American People, 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2000.

Kennedy, David, Elizabeth Cohen and Thomas Bailey. The American Pageant: A History of the Republic. 12th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2002

Murrin, John M. et. al. Liberty, Equality, Power: A History of the American People. 3rd ed. Forth Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 2001.

Nash, Gary. et. al. The American People: Creating A Nation and A Society. 5th ed. New York: Addison-Wesley Educational Publishers, Inc., 2001.

Norton, Mary Beth, et. al. A People and A Nation: A History of the United States. 6th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2001.

Boydston, Jeanne. et. al. Making A Nation: The United States and Its People. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2002.

Course Grade

Students may opt for a grade through the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Daily Agenda (subject to change at the discretion of the instructor)

Monday: Morning

- ◆ Introductions
- ◆ Gatekeeping: Who gets into AP?
- ◆ Skills to teach: overview
- ◆ Thinking Skills
 - Historical Classification and Categorization: Themes
 - Analysis
 - Cause and effect
 - Change over time
 - Synthesis
 - Evaluation
- ◆ Writing Skills & Exercises
 - Thesis writing
 - Topic Sentences
 - Marshalling Evidence
 - Word usage and exercises

Monday Afternoon

- ◆ Review multiple choice portion of exam
- ◆ Strategies for the Multiple Choice section of AP exam
- ◆ Plan presentation on sample textbooks
- ◆ Open discussion

Tuesday Morning

- ◆ Writing the DBQ: Hands-on experience
- ◆ Strategies and techniques for successful writing techniques
- ◆ Rubrics for assessment
- ◆ Write a DBQ

Tuesday Afternoon

- ◆ Understanding the Louisville reading
- ◆ The 2011 DBQ
- ◆ Grading the DBQs: Mock reading

Wednesday Morning

- ◆ Use of Computer Technology and the Internet
- ◆ Primary document analysis and techniques
- ◆ The Simulation Game

Wednesday Afternoon

- ◆ Grading the 2011 FRQs: Mock reading
- ◆ FRQ Exercises and Strategies
- ◆ Student presentations on sample textbooks

Thursday Morning

- ◆ The Socratic Seminar: A Shortcut
- ◆ Writing an historical newspaper article and creating a newspaper
- ◆ Resources

Thursday Afternoon

- ◆ Student presentations on sample textbooks: (continued)
- ◆ Review techniques for examination
- ◆ Wrap-up