**Syllabus – USAP History**

AP classes 2nd & 7th period (1:20-2:50)

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**Text** *– By the People – A History of the United States*; James W. Fraser

**Readings** – *Perspectives on 20th Century American History*; Boostin & Kelly, editors

*Discovering the American Past* (Vol. I & II); Wheeler & Becker

**Coures Overview**

Semester I will begin with pre-contact civilizations of North America and progress chronologically the Reconstruction and the Closing of the West, with particular emphasis on the foundations of our nation and the conflicts that eventually lead to the Civil War. This material should be a review of what you learned in the 8th Grade.

Semester II will continue to follow the chronological history of the United States from the last 19th Century to the present time. These topics should be more familiar to you since you learned about them during your freshman US History. We will finish our coverage of the topics by early May so those taking the USAP Exam will have covered everything that may be on the test.

**Course Objectives** Upon successful completion of this course the student will be expected to:

1. Identify the wide variety of social, political, and economic structures based in part on interactions with the environment and each other of native populations in North America.
2. Understand how European overseas expansion resulted in the Columbian Exchange, a series of interactions and adaptations among societies across the Atlantic.
3. Explain how contacts among American Indians, Africans, and Europeans challenged the worldviews of each group.
4. Identify the differences in imperial goals, cultures, and the North American environments that different empires confronted and how they led Europeans to develop diverse patterns of colonization.
5. Describe how European colonization efforts in North America stimulated intercultural contact and intensified conflict between the various groups of colonizers and native peoples.
6. Explain how the increasing political, economic, and cultural exchanges within the “Atlantic World” had a profound impact on the development of colonial societies in North America.
7. Describe and analyze how Britain’s victory over France in the imperial struggle for North America led to new conflicts among the British government, the North American colonists, and American Indians, culminating in the creation of a new nation, the United States.
8. Trace how new experiments with democratic ideas and republican forms of government, as well as other new religious, economic, and cultural ideas, in the late 18th century, challenged traditional imperial systems across the Atlantic World.
9. Identify how migration within North America, cooperative interaction, and competition for resources raised questions about boundaries and policies, intensified conflicts among peoples and nations, and led to contests over the creation of a multiethnic, multiracial national identity.
10. Explain how the United States developed the world’s first modern mass democracy and celebrated a new national culture, while Americans sought to define the nation’s democratic ideals and to reform its institutions to match them.
11. Trace the developments in technology, agriculture, and commerce and who they precipitated profound changes in U.S. settlement patterns, regional identities, gender and family relations, political power, and distribution of consumer goods.
12. Analyze how U.S. interest in increasing foreign trade, expanding its national borders, and isolating itself from European conflicts shaped the nation’s foreign policy and spurred government and private initiatives.
13. Describe how the United States became more connected with the world as it pursued an expansionist foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere and emerged as the destination for many migrants from other countries.
14. Explain how intensified expansion and deepening regional divisions, debates over slavery and other economic, cultural, and political issues led the nation into civil war.
15. Identify how the Union victory in the Civil War and the contested Reconstruction of the South settled the issues of slavery and secession, and explain why it left unresolved many questions about the power of the federal government and citizenship rights.
16. Evaluate the rise of big business in the United States and how it encouraged massive migrations and urbanization, sparked government and popular efforts to reshape the U.S. economy and environment, and renewed debates over U.S. national identity.
17. Draw a correlation between the emergence of an industrial culture in the United States and both greater opportunities for, and restrictions on, immigrants, minorities, and women.
18. Define the “Gilded Age” and how it witnessed new cultural and intellectual movements in tandem with political debates over economic and social policies.
19. Describe how Governmental, political, and social organizations struggled to address the effects of large-scale industrialization, economic uncertainty, and related social changes such as urbanization and mass migration.
20. Explain how revolutions in communications and transportation technology helped to create a new mass culture and spread “modern” values and ideas, even as cultural conflicts between groups increased under the pressure of migration, world wars, and economic distress.
21. Trace how global conflicts over resources, territories, and ideologies renewed debates over the nation’s values and its role in the world while simultaneously propelling the United States into a dominant international military, political, cultural, and economic position.
22. Identify how the United States responded to an uncertain and unstable postwar world by asserting and attempting to defend a position of global leadership, with far-reaching domestic and international consequences.
23. Define Liberalism, and explain how based on anticommunism abroad and a firm belief in the efficacy of governmental and especially federal power to achieve social goals at home, it reached its apex in the mid-1960s and generated a variety of political and cultural responses.
24. Analyze postwar economic, demographic, and technological changes had a far-reaching impact on American society, politics, and the environment.
25. Explain how new conservatism grew to prominence in U.S. culture and politics, defending traditional social values and rejecting liberal views about the role of government.
26. Identify how challenges to U.S. leadership in the world, forced the nation to redefine its foreign policy and global role after the end of the Cold War.
27. Identify challenges the nation continued to experience that stemmed from social, economic, and demographic changes in the early 21st century.

**Course Requirements**

- READINGS will be assigned on a weekly basis; if you do not complete these on schedule, both you comprehension and your performance/grade will suffer

- WRITING/DBQ’s will be done in class on previously announced topics.

- EXAM / TESTS will be held weekly; please refer to the dates on the back.

**Contact Hours**

- Students meet for two semester, 90 minutes per class , every other day. There will be a total of 85 classes.

- I am available before school every day starting at 6:45

**Grading Scale**

90% - 100% A

80% - 89% B

70% - 79% C

60% - 69% D

Below 60% F

**Summary of Assessment**

The overall point total will follow this formula

Exams = 40% of total Points

Essay = 20% of total Points

Document Based Questions = 20% of total Points

Study Guides/Class assignments = 20% of total points

**Proposed Test Dates**

Presidents Test Aug. 10/11

Time Period 1: pp. 2-54 Period 1 Test Aug. 18/19

Time Period 2: pp. 62-122 Period 2 Test Sept. 3/4

Time Period 3: pp. 130 -220 Period 3 Test Sept. 30/Oct.1

Time Period 4: pp. 228 - 348 Period 4 Test Oct. 26/27

Time Period 5: pp. 356 - 472 Period 5 Test Nov. 24/30

Semester Break

Time Period 6: pp. 479-595 Period 6 Test Jan. 12/13

Time Period 7: pp. 602-721 Period 7 Test Feb. 17/18

Time Period 8: pp. 730 -854 Period 8 Test March 29/30

Time Period 9: pp. 862 - 949 Period 9 Test April 14/19