Welcome to AP US History, Semesters 1 & 2

This course is meticulously designed to align with state standards and targeted learning objectives, ensuring comprehensive coverage of essential knowledge and skills required for student success.

Course Description:
AP U.S. History is a self-paced advanced placement course designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of American history, from pre-colonial times to the present day. Through rigorous analysis of primary and secondary sources, students explore key historical events, themes, and figures that have shaped the nation.

Topics include colonialism, the American Revolution, westward expansion, the Civil War, industrialization, world wars, civil rights movements, and contemporary issues. Emphasizing critical thinking, analytical writing, and historical interpretation, this course prepares students for the AP exam while fostering a deeper appreciation for the complexities and diversity of the American experience.

Units and Learning Outcomes

Semester 1:

Unit 1: Pre-Colonial America and Colonial Foundations
- Study the origins of Native American cultures before European contact.
- Analyze European exploration and the establishment of colonies in North America.
- Understand the economic, political, and social foundations of the colonies, and the influence of religion and culture on early American society.
- Examine the impact of slavery, the transatlantic trade, and indigenous displacement.

Unit 2: The American Revolution and the Early Republic
- Investigate the causes and events leading up to the American Revolution.
- Explore the key battles, ideas, and figures of the Revolution, including the Declaration of Independence.
- Analyze the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution as foundational documents of American government.
- Examine the early years of the republic, including the presidencies of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson.

Unit 3: The Early National Period and Expansion
- Study the development of political parties, key figures, and major events during the early 19th century.
- Analyze the impact of westward expansion, including the Louisiana Purchase, the War of 1812, and Manifest Destiny.
- Explore the economic, social, and political consequences of territorial expansion, including the Indian Removal Act and the Mexican-American War.
- Examine the rise of reform movements, including abolition, women's rights, and the second Great Awakening.

Unit 4: The Civil War and Reconstruction
- Investigate the causes of the Civil War, including sectionalism, slavery, and states' rights.
- Study key battles, military strategies, and leaders during the Civil War.
- Analyze the impact of the war on American society, including emancipation and the role of African Americans.
- Examine the Reconstruction era, including the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, and the challenges of reintegrating the South.

Semester 2:

Unit 5: Industrialization and the Gilded Age

- Study the rise of industrialization, including the growth of factories, railroads, and the labor movement.
- Explore the social, political, and economic changes of the Gilded Age, including urbanization, the expansion of capitalism, and the rise of monopolies.
- Examine the challenges faced by workers, including labor strikes, child labor, and immigration.
- Analyze the politics of the period, including corruption, the Progressive movement, and the response to growing inequality.

Unit 6: Progressive Era and World War I

- Investigate the reform movements of the Progressive Era, including labor rights, women's suffrage, and anti-trust laws.
- Study the major figures and policies of the era, such as Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and the growth of the federal government.
- Analyze the causes and major events of World War I, including the U.S. entry into the war and its impact on American society and politics.
- Examine the post-war period, including the Treaty of Versailles, the Red Scare, and the emergence of the "Roaring Twenties."

Unit 7: The Great Depression and New Deal

- Study the causes and effects of the Great Depression, including the stock market crash and economic collapse.
- Examine the social, political, and cultural impacts of the Depression, including unemployment and the Dust Bowl.
- Analyze Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs and their role in reshaping the U.S. economy and government.
- Explore the debates over the New Deal, including its effectiveness and long-term consequences.

Unit 8: World War II and the Post-War Era

- Study the causes and major events of World War II, including the U.S. entry into the war and the impact on American society.
- Analyze key military strategies, battles, and figures during the war, including the homefront efforts and the role of women and minorities.
- Examine the post-war period, including the origins of the Cold War, the rise of the U.S. as a global superpower, and the beginning of the civil rights movement.

Unit 9: Civil Rights Movements and Social Change

- Investigate the history of civil rights movements, including the African American Civil Rights Movement, and the women's rights movement.
- Study key events, figures, and legislation that advanced social justice, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- Explore the roles of organizations like the NAACP, and grassroots movements like the Black Panther Party, in shaping the social and political landscape.
- Analyze the long-term impacts of these movements on American society.

Unit 10: Contemporary America

- Study the major political, economic, and social events that shaped the late 20th and early 21st centuries.
- Explore the effects of globalization, economic recessions, and technological innovation on American life.
- Analyze key moments in recent history, including the September 11 attacks, the War on Terror, and shifts in U.S. foreign policy.
- Examine contemporary social issues, such as immigration, healthcare reform, and debates over civil liberties.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze and interpret key events, figures, and ideas in U.S. history from pre-colonial times to the present.
- Evaluate historical sources and evidence to construct well-reasoned arguments and conclusions.
- Demonstrate a deep understanding of historical themes, including economic, political, social, and cultural developments in U.S. history.
- Apply critical thinking and historical analysis to evaluate the impact of key historical events on contemporary America.
- Prepare for the AP U.S. History exam with a comprehensive knowledge of U.S. history.

Conclusion:

AP U.S. History is a self-paced, challenging yet rewarding course that provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the history of the United States. Through a rigorous examination of key events, people, and movements, students will develop the critical thinking and analytical writing skills necessary for success in the AP exam.

This course fosters a deeper appreciation for the complexities and diversity of the American experience, preparing students not only for the AP exam but for informed participation in civic life.