

# AP United States History

## Overview

This course provides students with an understanding of major themes in U.S. history, including American identity, economic and social life, political change and continuity, and the U.S. role in the world. The course is ideal for the student who has a real interest in history and who is prepared to work consistently and to go well beyond. Students will work collaboratively with a mentor to build upon their intrinsic motivation to have good reading and comprehension skills, to be well organised, and to be prepared to examine and think about different, often conflicting, interpretations of history. The program moves briskly, so students must be prepared to devote time daily to reading and note taking. There will be considerable in class discussions based on assigned readings, as well as numerous interpretive essays.

## Objectives

- Comprehend and retain information regarding the major themes of U.S. History
- Effectively survey chronological periods, conceptual themes, and facts of U.S. History
- Develop critical thinking skills through the interpretation primary sources
- Enhance analytical writing skills

## Structure

- Reflect on current knowledge of the range of topics that AP US History covers and identify strengths and weaknesses
  - Develop a personalised curriculum
- Read through texts in order to develop knowledge and understanding of the relevant time periods
- Investigating historical events
  - Critical thinking and problem-solving practice
  - Develop data analysis skills
    - Question reliability and validity of data
  - Improve evaluative thinking
  - Source-based questions
- Critically investigating sources through change, causation and significance
  - Interpret competing and contestable claims
  - Evaluate purpose and origin of historical sources
- Examine a variety of multi-perspective sources to promote international mindedness
- Practice reporting primary and secondary data in the form of a report
  - Writing style
  - Communication skills
- Managing time and allocating enough time to each section
- Exam practice
  - Past papers
  - Planning and structuring responses
  - Analysing and evaluating sources

