

Wachusett Regional High School

Course Name: United States History

Level: Advanced Placement (AP)

Grade (s): 11 (12)

Course Description:

Using college textbooks and reading materials, students study the history of the United States from 1607 to the present; in addition, they consider changing interpretations of historical periods. Students in this course have the option of taking the Advanced Placement examination in American History. A student who successfully passes this examination may be given credit or be released from a required course by the college of her/his choice.

Links to Student Expectations:

1. All students will complete a high school program that prepares them for entrance into higher education or career paths.
2. All students will attend school regularly and adhere to the code of conduct as specified in the Wachusett Regional High School Handbook.
3. All students will develop skills to manage technology such as gathering, evaluating, assimilating, and presenting information.
4. All students will assess information in a critical manner by using skills that demonstrate the ability to identify and approach, and provide resources to solve a problem.
5. All students will learn to communicate critically, persuasively, and personally in both oral and written expression.
6. All students will develop an appreciation of the arts.
7. All students will develop skills to promote a sense of confidence in tackling the rigors of standardized tests such as the required MCAS and optional AP and SAT.

Interdisciplinary Connections:

- ✓ American Literature
- ✓ Music and Films
- ✓ Science and Technology

Essential Concepts:

1. The course is designed to prepare the students to take the Advanced Placement Examination.
2. The students will in the course of their study examine, identify, discuss, and review the following:
 - ✓ The American Democratic Tradition
 - ✓ Humanities and Religion
 - ✓ Cultural Diversity
 - ✓ Geography and the Environment
 - ✓ Conflict and Consensus
 - ✓ Influence of Technology

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Essential Concepts continued

- ✓ Individualism and Family Life
- ✓ World Involvement and the United States Role
- ✓ Civil Rights and Liberties
- ✓ Economic Development

Student Objectives:

1. Students will write essays describing the nation's roots, culture, religious base, technology advances, and constitutional foundation.
2. Students will recognize how the nation's geography has influenced its development.
3. Students will identify influential people, places, and events.
4. Students will be able to score consistently high on all practice multiple choice tests in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam.
5. Students will write several document-based question essays in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam.
6. Students will use essays, read and interpret, discuss, argue, and debate all relevant issues related to the course of study.

Suggestions for Instruction:

1. Students will read primary and secondary texts.
 - ✓ *American History, A Survey*. McGraw Hill, 1995.
 - ✓ *American Passages, A History of the United States*. Harcourt, 2000.
 - ✓ *U.S. History, Preparing For The Advanced Placement Exam*. AMSCO, 1998.
2. Students will work individually to develop a voice.
3. Students will work in cooperative learning groups.
4. Students will use technologies in the Media and Writing Centers.
5. Students will conduct interviews.
6. Students will attend field trips.

Suggestions for Assessment:

- ✓ Quizzes and tests for understanding
- ✓ Essays for critical thinking
- ✓ Written and oral projects of various types with rubrics
- ✓ DBQS written for total comprehension of significant part of Advanced Placement Exam
- ✓ Long composition and research assignments

Curriculum:

- ✓ Discovery and Settlement
- ✓ Colonial Society and the Road to Revolution
- ✓ Independence and Constitutionalism
- ✓ Jeffersonian Democracy

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Curriculum continued

- ✓ Second War of Revolution and the Era of Good Feeling
- ✓ Age of King Andrew I
- ✓ Economic Revolution and Increasing Sectionalism
- ✓ Two Nation Theory and the Dark Shadow over the Bright Landscape
- ✓ War with Mexico
- ✓ The Troubling Decade of the 1850s
- ✓ The Civil War
- ✓ Reconstruction Debated
- ✓ The Gilded Age
- ✓ Imperialism and the First World War
- ✓ Failures of Peace and the Roaring Twenties
- ✓ Economic Collapse and the Great Depression
- ✓ The New Deal
- ✓ Background to and Participation in World War II
- ✓ Cold War and the Bi-Polar Rivalry
- ✓ Ike, New Frontier, Great Society, and Vietnam
- ✓ Watergate and the Man From Plains
- ✓ The Conservative Revolution
- ✓ The New Paradigm and the Bridge to the 21st Century

Lesson Extensions:

- ✓ To extend beyond the scope of the class lesson.
- ✓ Research additional topics, review additional critical and/or creative writings.
- ✓ Conduct several after school classes aimed at course review in anticipation of the Advanced Placement Exam.