



# Southmoreland School District Advanced Placement United States History Curriculum Overview

## **Advanced Placement United States History Overview:**

Advanced Placement U.S. History is a college-level course in American History that covers U.S. History pre-Columbian period through the present. It is designed for the student who has shown exceptional ability in Social Studies. Highly developed critical thinking skills and proficiency in historical essay writing are necessary. Examinations, essays, research and supplemental reading assignments are similar to those given at the university level. Students are responsible for a summer assignment and a research project.

Interspersed throughout the chronological study of the United States, the course includes multiple secondary sources written by historians or scholars interpreting the past. Each of the course's historical periods receives explicit attention, and are provided opportunities to investigate key and supporting concepts through the in depth study and application of specific historical evidence or examples. Students are provided opportunities to apply learning objectives in each of the themes throughout the course, as well as to analyze primary sources explaining the significance of an author's point of view, purpose, audience, and historical context.

## **Module Titles:**

**Module 1:** 1491-1607

**Module 2:** 1607-1754

**Module 3:** 1754-1800

**Module 4:** 1800-1848

**Module 5:** 1844-1877

**Module 6:** 1865-1900

**Module 7:** 1890-1945

**Module 8:** 1945-1989

## **Module Overviews:**

### **Module 1:**

Students develop an understanding of the geography and environment of the Americas and the Native American diversity before the arrival of Europeans. An overview of settlements and the Atlantic economy centers on Spain, England, French, and the Dutch.



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#### **Module 2:**

Students analyze the growing trade, labor, and political differences across the colonies in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, as well as the conflict with Native Americans, immigration, early cities, role of women, education, religion and culture. The culmination of the era focuses on growing tensions with the British.

#### **Module 3:**

The module focuses on Colonial society before the War for Independence, including colonial rivalries, the Seven Years' War, the emergence of pirates and other democrats, and the role of women before, during, and after 1776. Additionally, there is a focus on the articles and a Constitution and early political rights and exclusions.

#### **Module 4:**

Students develop an understanding of the politics in the early republic, parties and votes, reforms, and social movements. Students also analyze and explain culture and religion of the era, market capitalism and slavery, growth of immigration and cities, women and Seneca Falls, territorial expansion, and the Mexican War.

#### **Module 5:**

Students analyze and discuss the major political, social, and economic developments of the antebellum and Civil War eras, focusing on tensions over slavery, reform movements, politics and the economy, cultural trends; transcendentalism and utopianism; the Civil War, rights of freedmen and women, the Reconstruction Era, Freedmen's Bureau, and the KKK.

#### **Module 6:**

Students analyze and discuss the major political, social, and economic developments of the Reconstruction and Gilded Age centering on major topics such as the rights of freedmen and Freedmen's Bureau, the 1877 Railroad strike, the rise of labor unions and the Populist Party, urbanization, immigration, imperialism the Indian wars, the Spanish-American War, and the conquests in the Pacific.

#### **Module 7:**

Students analyze and discuss the major political, social, and economic developments of the United States during the early twentieth century focusing on pivotal events such as the formation of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and the American Federation of Labor (AFL), industrialization and technology, mass production, mass consumerism, mass media, the Harlem Renaissance, Native American culture and boarding schools, political parties and the



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transition from classical liberalism to New Deal liberalism with the capitalist crisis of the 1930s. The module concludes with an overview of World War II, as well as the demographic shifts and the role of women and nonwhites in the post-war era.

## **Module 8:**

The concluding module examines the United States from 1945 to the end of the Cold War. The study of this era centers on The atomic age, the affluent society and suburbs, discrimination, Michael Harrington's *The Other America* (1962), the African-American Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War, U.S. imperial policies in Latin America and Africa, the beat generation and the student movement, the counterculture movement, the antiwar movement, the women's movement, the Chicano movement, the American Indian movement, the gay and lesbian movements, the summer riots and the occupation of Alcatraz, LBJ's "The Great Society" speech, the rise of the New Right and Ronald Reagan, the rise of poverty and the Cold War and the U.S. role in the world.