

COURSE NAME: AP U.S. HISTORY

1 credit

Full Year

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

AP United States History is for the highly motivated student who is willing to accept the responsibilities and challenges of a college-level experience. This class offers opportunities to build and reinforce the necessary study skills for the college experience. The scope of this class will include the major themes of American history (political, economic, social, religious, diplomatic, and the arts) from the 17<sup>th</sup> century through the year 2000.

#### COURSE PURPOSE/ OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Be confidently prepared to take the Advanced Placement exam in May.
2. Develop the necessary study habits that will allow them to succeed in their humanities and social science classes in college.
3. Build the necessary analytical skills (such as recognizing bias, evaluating reliability, and being aware of the audience) needed to interpret primary and secondary sources.
4. Be able to write more effectively in their essays. Writing to persuade rather than to inform will be stressed.
5. Be able to interpret historic materials from a variety of sources such as historical atlases, political cartoons, graphs, etc.
6. Be able to effectively break down DBQ's and then organize a well structured essay in response to the question and its many different views on that topic.

#### COURSE TEXTS AND READINGS

David M. Kennedy, Lizabeth Cohen, and Thomas A. Bailey. The American Pageant: A History of the Republic (Boston: McDougal Littell/Houghton Mifflin, 2005)

Thomas A Bailey, David M. Kennedy, The American Spirit: United States History as seen by Contemporaries, Volumes I and II. 1987.

Larry Madaras, James M. SoRelle, Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in American History, Vol I The Colonial Period to Reconstruction and Vol. II Reconstruction to the Present, The Dushkin Publishing Group, Inc. 1989

Howard Zinn, A Peoples History of the United States, New Press, New York, 1997.

John F. Kennedy, Profiles in Courage, Harper and Row Publishers, New York, 1956.

Hammond Historical Atlas of the United States, New Jersey, 2001.

Meyers, Cawelti, Kern, Sources of the American Republic, Scott, Foresman and Company, 1961.