

AP United States History:

2023-2024 Course and Exam Description

Congratulations! You've decided to devote a year of your life to an in-depth study of American history. This class will give you a comprehensive overview and help you prepare for the AP Exam. Remember that preparing for the Exam is not a sprint, but rather like training for a marathon-- working at a reasonable pace from now until test day will pay off in the end.

College Board has broken down the entire class into nine different periods. We are going to be exploring the content in each period a number of different ways. For some continuity, there will be a Unit Guide associated with each period. You will be completing these Unit Guides using the assigned readings, lectures, videos, and primary source materials we cover in class. The Unit Guide for each period will be completed, turned in for points, and returned to you so that you will have a complete study guide for the exam.

The Unit Guide should be completed in your own handwriting in blue or black pen. You might find that you need more space to write on some topics. Please use the back of the paper. It is in your best interest to complete these assignments with as much detail and information as possible.

Unit 1: 1491–1607	Exploration
Unit 2: 1607–1754	Colonies
Unit 3: 1754–1800	Revolution
Unit 4: 1800–1848	The Republic
Unit 5: 1844–1877	The Civil War
Unit 6: 1865–1898	The Gilded Age
Unit 7: 1890–1945	Neo-Imperialism and Progressivism
Unit 8: 1945–1980	The Cold War
Unit 9: 1980–Present	The Modern Era

Topic 1.2 Native American Societies Before European Contact

Explain how and why various native populations in the period before European contact interacted with the natural environment in North America.

The spread of maize cultivation from present-day Mexico northward into the present-day American Southwest and beyond supported economic development, settlement, advanced irrigation, and social diversification among societies.

Describe:

Three-Sisters Farming-

Aztec cultural accomplishments-

Iroquois Confederacy-

Societies responded to the aridity of the Great Basin and the grasslands of the western Great Plains by developing largely mobile lifestyles.

Describe:

Hunter-Gatherer Societies-

Topic 1.3 European Exploration in the Americas

Explain the causes of exploration and conquest of the New World by various European nations.

European nations' efforts to explore and conquer the New World stemmed from a search for new sources of wealth, economic and military competition, and a desire to spread Christianity. **Explain some factors that caused Europeans to explore in ever expanding routes.**

Describe the role the Portuguese played in expanding European contact with African and Asian cultures.

Topic 1.4 Columbian Exchange, Spanish Exploration, and Conquest

Explain causes of the Columbian Exchange and its effect on Europe and the Americas during the period after 1492.

The Columbian Exchange brought new crops to Europe from the Americas, stimulating European population growth, and new sources of mineral wealth, which facilitated the European shift from feudalism to capitalism. **Identify several examples of the different trade goods that were part of the Columbian Exchange.**

American Contributions	European Contributions

Improvements in maritime technology and more organized methods for conducting international trade, such as joint-stock companies, helped drive changes to economies in Europe and the Americas.

Describe:

Caravel-

Sextant-

Compass-

Spanish exploration and conquest of the Americas were accompanied and furthered by widespread deadly epidemics that devastated native populations and by the introduction of crops and animals not found in the Americas. **Summarize the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire. Include details about Cortez, Malinche, Moctezuma, and the role of small pox.**

Topic 1.5 Labor, Slavery, and Caste in the Spanish Colonial System

Explain how the growth of the Spanish Empire in North America shaped the development of social and economic structures over time.

In the *encomienda* system, Spanish colonial economies marshaled Native American labor to support plantation-based agriculture and extract precious metals and other resources.

Describe:
Treaty of Tordesillas-

Encomienda System-

Topic 1.6 Cultural Interactions Between Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans

Explain how and why European and Native American perspectives of others developed and changed in the period.

In their interactions, Europeans and Native Americans asserted divergent worldviews regarding issues such as religion, gender roles, family, land use, and power. **Describe the Black Legend. To what extent was this an accurate portrayal of Spanish Imperialism?**

As European encroachments on Native Americans' lands and demands on their labor increased, native peoples sought to defend and maintain their political sovereignty, economic prosperity, religious beliefs, and concepts of gender relations through diplomatic negotiations and military resistance.

Describe the causes, course, and consequences of Popé's Rebellion.