

# AP United States History (APUSH)

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## Who should take APUSH?

- Every student that really wants to learn about US History, in depth. This is not a surface-level class. We get into the details, we get into everything. You don't have to love history right now, because... after taking APUSH, you'll love history too!
- Students that are interested in taking the APUSH College Board Exam

## APUSH Objectives:

- The APUSH course is designed to provide students with the factual knowledge and the analytical skills to become engaged American citizens. Students will increase their knowledge and ability to analyze important developments in American history. Students will practice assessing historical materials: their relevance, reliability and importance. APUSH students will be able to develop their own ideas with informed and reasonable evidence.
- APUSH Themes
  - American and National Identity (**NAT**)
  - Politics and Power (**POL**)
  - Work, Exchange and Technology (**WXT**)
  - Culture and Society (**CUL**)
  - Migration and Settlement (**MIG**)
  - Geography and Environment (**GEO**)
  - America in the World (**WOR**)
- Essay Preparation
  - DBQ (Document Based Question) essay/argument using sources
  - LEQ (Long Essay Question) essay/argument from knowledge
  - SAQ (Short Answer Question) brief written responses to an excerpt
- Multiple-Choice Preparation
  - Skills and test-taking strategies
  - Knowledge
  - Details, details, details
- APUSH Thinking Skills
  - Contextualization: *accurate historical context for a specific historical development or process*
  - Comparison: *similarities and/or differences between different historical developments or processes*
  - Causation: *causes and/or effects of a specific historical development or process*
  - Continuity and Change over Time: *patterns of continuity and/or change over time*

## The APUSH College Board Exam:

- It is highly encouraged that your son or daughter take the APUSH exam in May
- Why should he/she take the test?
  - Potential college credit (History/Humanities course)
  - \$98 test can = ~\$1,800 college credit with a score of 3 or 4 out of 5. (Grand Canyon University accepts a 3 or better; ASU, UofA and NAU accepts a 4 or better.) Search other colleges:  
<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement/search-policies>
  - Even if a student were to score poorly, **85% of colleges** would rather see you tried and took the risk than taking an AP course and not test. Avoiding College Board exams makes students look like they seek to avoid challenges (that's bad).
- The APUSH Exam is comprised of two parts:
  - Section I is 95 minutes and consists of A) 55 multiple choice questions (40% of the final score) and B) 3 short answer questions (20 % of the final score). In Section I, Part A is the multiple-choice portion and YOU MAY NOT return to the section after the 55 minutes. You will have 40 minutes to complete Part B that includes short answer questions.
  - Section II is 100 minutes and consists of 1 DBQ (document-based question) essay (25% of final score) and a long essay question (15% of final score). Students are given 15 minutes to read DBQ materials and 45 minutes for writing the DBQ essay. Students can choose one of three different long essay prompts, and 40 minutes are provided for writing.

## Students will:

- Critically analyze primary and secondary texts, charts, graphs and political cartoons.
- Formulate and develop arguments with clear and coherent claims, citing strong and thorough evidence to support implicit inferences from the text, and implementing valid and logical reasoning.
- Synthesize information from a variety of similar texts to explain developments in United States history.
- Express understanding through a variety of writing experiences, focusing mostly on factual knowledge, analysis, historical interpretation, and argumentation.
- Develop close reading skills on 16<sup>th</sup> century texts to modern-day texts.