



Course Description: AP United States History

AP U.S. History curriculum encourages students to challenge long-held assumptions and engage in independent, critical thinking. The one-year course covers all of the material outlined by the College Board as necessary to pass the Advanced Placement U.S. History Exam. High Bluff's AP course is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual understanding necessary to deal critically with issues of past and recent U.S. History. Students are instructed on the methods used by historians to evaluate primary historical documents, form conclusions based upon the evidence, and to present these conclusions clearly and persuasively in an essay format.

This course covers the following topics:

1. The Crisis of the Union
2. Civil War
3. Pre-Columbian Societies
4. Transatlantic Encounters and Colonial Beginnings, 1492–1690
5. Colonial North America, 1690–1754
6. The American Revolutionary Era, 1754–1789
7. The Early Republic, 1789–1815
8. Transformation of the Economy and Society in Antebellum America
9. The Transformation of Politics in Antebellum America
10. Religion, Reform, and Renaissance in Antebellum America
11. Territorial Expansion and Manifest Destiny
12. Reconstruction
13. The Origins of the New South
14. Development of the West in the Late Nineteenth Century
15. Industrial America in the Late Nineteenth Century
16. Urban Society in the Late Nineteenth Century
17. Populism and Progressivism
18. The Emergence of America as a World Power
19. The New Era: 1920s
20. The Great Depression and the New Deal
21. The Second World War
22. The Home Front During the War
23. The United States and the Early Cold War
24. The 1950s
25. The Turbulent 1960s
26. Politics and Economics at the End of the Twentieth Century
27. Society and Culture at the End of the Twentieth Century
28. The United States in the Post–Cold War World

In addition to exposing students to the historical content listed above, the AP course aims to train students to analyze and interpret primary sources, including documentary materials, maps, statistical tables, and pictorial and graphic evidence of historical events. Students will learn to express themselves with clarity and precision, and understand how to cite sources and credit the phrases and ideas of others. Students will learn to take notes from both printed materials and lectures, compose free response and document based essays, and write analytical research papers.

Primary Textbook: *The American Pageant* (13th ed.), Kennedy, Cohen & Bailey.

High Bluff Academy is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The above course is approved by the University of California system (A-G) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).