



AP U.S. History (APUSH)

SY 2025-2026

Please visit collegeboard.org/apcourseaudit for more information to support the preparation and submission of materials for the AP Course Audit.

In AP U.S. History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change. The course also provides eight themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures.

College Course Equivalent

AP U.S. History is equivalent to a two-semester introductory college course in U.S. history.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites regarding previous classes for AP U.S. History. To be successful however....

- Students should be able to read at the college-level.

To be successful in writing the student must be able to:

- Create coherent and well-developed responses to assignments.
- Demonstrate a moderate to high level of critical and abstract thinking.
- Support their arguments with relevant, detailed and convincing evidence.
- Logically sequence their paragraphs with content-based transitions.
- Use appropriate diction and tone and constructively vary sentence structures.
- Use correct grammar, punctuation, spelling and syntax.

Students should also be able to listen at the four levels.

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| • Receiving. | • Evaluating. |
| • Understanding. | • Responding. |

Enrolling Students: Equity and Access

The College Board strongly encourages educators to make equitable access a guiding principle for their AP programs by giving all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP. We encourage the elimination of barriers that restrict access to AP for students from ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underserved. The College Board also believes that all students should have access to academically challenging coursework before they enroll in AP classes, which can prepare them for AP success. It is only through a commitment to equitable preparation and access that true equity and excellence can be achieved.

APUSH COURSE EXPECTATIONS

The following chart is meant to give you an idea of how much time is needed to prepare for APUSH. These entries are meant to be an approximation of time and assignments. Some students will need less time and some will need more time to do the assignments depending on their skill level.

Use the following to evaluate readiness for AP course work.

Essential Skills	Reading per Class	Study Hours per class	Major Tests, Essays, and Quizzes	Major Projects (W/Summer Assignments)
Good work ethic, critical thinking, above average/college level reading skills, note taking skills, and comprehension, above average vocabulary, synthesis, and analysis skills.	One chapter per week, primary sources, some alternative researching. College level text.	5-8 pages of reading per night with notetaking and answering critical thinking questions	Essays are bi-monthly. Reading quizzes 2 to 3 times per week. Tests/Exams every 2 weeks.	Text + 1 supplemental website and Barron's APUSH Review book. Primary Sources. 2 outside novels

- There is Chapter reading, generally 1-2 chapters each, over Thanksgiving, Christmas, Ski Week and Easter break.

What Xavier Students Think:

"Apush is a great class to take, but it requires keeping up with the reading on your own in order to be prepared for class" –Ethan Oleson ('23)

"APUSH is a tough class that requires you to work hard and read every day. Every day you don't read is setting you up to get some fat "0"s on your RQ. DON'T CHEAT, PASSING APUSH IS A GREAT FEAT!" – David Opaleke ('23)

"APUSH has been extremely exciting and rewarding throughout the school year. Not only have we covered multiple topics regarding the curriculum, but we dove deep into them. This class is much more than just a book, where students help each other to learn and grow in the name of US History."
-Jace Johnson ('23)

"...Make sure you turn in your homework on time and prepare for your tests. If you do these things, you're going to do great." -Caden Tadevic ('23)

"APUSH is an enlightening class and a great experience if you do your part. ...There is a great deal of information (sic) so be ready to take it all in and ask questions! Do the reading every night, put in full effort, and be intellectually curious. APUSH is a rigorous class but has rewarding effects and allows students to feel fulfilled by the end of the year." -Nicola Ward ('23)

"AP US history is not about getting an "A" in a challenging class. It's about being interested enough to learn and appreciate the series of events that lead to the creation of the best country on the planet." -Ben Barkett ('23)

A fascinating class, homework load isn't heavy and remains the same. Always study for tests and do nightly reading. - Catalina Nelson, ('23)



Summer Assignments

TASK #1: Mandatory reading of two (2) novels. **Uncle Tom's Cabin and The Jungle**

TASK #2: Know the states, their respective capitals and 30 geographic features of the United States by the first day of class.

TASK #3: You should have the entire list of Presidents and their respective political parties memorized, in chronological order by the first day of class.

TASK #4: Download the text at <https://openstax.org/subjects/humanities> U.S. History. Have the first two chapters read and understood by the first day of class in August of 2025.

TASK #5: Watch or re-watch at least three movies listed in the packet and summarize in one page each, (total of 3 pages minimally) typed, MLA style, due by 12:00 pm **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2025.**

***Note: Keep an eye open on Canvas, for information throughout the summer.**

APUSH SURVIVAL SKILLS

Students should be familiar with Cornell note-taking. Taking notes by laptop, or other electronic devices, is not allowed during class.

Students should know how to write a paper in MLA style.

Students should be able to keep a chronologically or thematically organized notebook.

