

A.P.U.S. History

Brunswick High School

Brunswick, Maine

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M.A. History, Department Chair

Course

Description

This course has three general goals, they are; (1) to provide a general understanding of the chronology of events and broad themes of the early Colonial period to the present; (2) to introduce students to a range of historical interpretations (historiography), primary sources, and other tools used in the “doing of history”; (3) to develop the intellectual and academic skills necessary to effectively weigh evidence, interpret documents and reach conclusions within the structure of a variety of written exercises.

This course effectively begins with a summer reading assignment. Students are required to read:

Stowe, Harriet Beecher, Uncle Tom’s Cabin, any edition such as Signet Classic (published serially in 1851/52)

Cummins, Duane D., The American Frontier, Encino: Glencoe 1972 (photo copy available at BHS) note: this is a discussion of the “Turnerian Thesis”.

Haley, Alex, and the Autobiography of Malcolm X, NEW YORK: Ballantine Books, 1964

Lewis, Sinclair, Babbitt, New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1922

Sinclair, Upton, the Jungle New York: Bantam Books, 1906

Successful completion of the summer reading exam will allow for continued participation in A.P. U.S. History. Students will then be expected to complete all subsequent readings and assignments. Emphasis will be placed upon class discussion, analytical thinking, document interpretation and the writing of historical essays and papers. It should be noted that all assignments are long term and will take more than one class period to complete. Specific due dates will be announced as we proceed.

Texts and Sources

Primary text:

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

Secondary Sources: (provided for analysis and enrichment)

Philbrick, Nathaniel, 'Mayflower', New York, N.Y., Viking Press, 2006

Ellis, Joseph J. 'Founding Brothers', New York, N.Y., Random House, 2000

Hofstadter, Richard 'The Age of Reform', New York, N.Y., Random House, 1955

Norton Mary Beth (editor) 'To Toil The Livelong Day: America's Women at Work', Ithaca, N.Y., Cornell University Press, 1987

Halberstam, David, 'The Fifties', New York, N.Y., Random House, 1993

Norton, Mary Beth, 'In the Devil's Snare: the Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692', New York, N.Y., Alfred A. Knopf, 2002

Primary Source and Document Collections:

Kennedy, David M. (et. al.) 'The American Spirit Volume I: To 1870', Boston, Ma. Houghton Mifflin, 2002

Kennedy, David M. (et. al.) 'The American Spirit Volume II: Since 1865', Boston, Ma. Houghton Mifflin, 2002

Becker, Susan D. (et. al.) 'Discovering the American Past: A Look at the Evidence Volume I'. Boston, Ma. Houghton Mifflin, 2002

Becker, Susan D. (et. al.) Discovering the American Past : A Look at the Evidence
Volume II. Boston, Ma. Houghton Mifflin, 2002

Papers and Assessments

There are basically four types of papers and or assessments utilized during this course; they are as follows:

- 1) Objective, multiple choice tests and quizzes (*minimum of three per quarter*)
- 2) Formal essays (*minimum of one per quarter*)
- 3) Documents Based Questions (*minimum of one per quarter*)
- 4) Research, source based papers (*one per semester*)

* All tests, exams and quizzes will be announced at least twenty-four hours prior.

First Quarter

Unit 1: Founding the New Nation

- Topic A: Europeans in North America
- Topic B: American Life and Colonial Society in the 17th and 18th Centuries
- Topic C: The Duel for North America
- Topic D: The American “Revolution” Causes and Effects
 - Assignment 1
 - Theme 1: Spain Builds an American Empire
 - Theme 2: Native Americans and the Disaster of Colonization
 - Theme 3: English Settlement in Virginia (the ‘Joint Stock Concept’)
 - Theme 4: English Settlement in New England (the Puritans)
 - Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch 1-3: The New World Beginnings, Planting the English and Settling Northern Colonies
 - Analysis reading: Mayflower: N. Philbrick (*selections*)
 - Reference reading: none

- Primary source reading: American Spirit, Vol. I. The Native Americans (*pg.1-6*) and The Mix of Cultures in English America (*pg.35-38*)
- Assignment 2
 - Theme 1: American Life and Culture in the 17th and 18th Centuries
 - Theme 2: The Duel for North America
 - Theme 3: The American Revolution; the Causes
 - Theme 4: The American Revolution and its results
 - Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch 4-8: Colonial Society, The Duel For North America, The Road to Revolution, America Secedes
 - Analysis reading: Norton, Mary Beth, 'In the Devil's Snare': the Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692', New York, N.Y., Alfred A. Knopf, 2002 (*selected passages to be announced*)
 - Primary source reading: The American Spirit Vol. I Indentured Servitude (*pg.65-74*), The Road to Revolution (*pg.130-148*), Thomas Paine Talks Common Sense (*pg154*)

Unit 2: The Difficult Business of Nation Building

- Topic A: The Articles of Confederation
- Topic B: The Constitution
- Topic C: The Early Republic (*Hamilton vs. Jefferson*)
- Topic D: Jefferson and the Realities of the Presidency
- Topic E: The Second War for Independence (*the New Nationalism*)
- Topic F: The Age of Jackson
- Assignment 1
 - Theme 1: Successes and Failures of the 'Articles'
 - Theme 2: The Constitution as a Conservative Reaction

- Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch. 9-10: The Confederation and the Constitution, Launching the New Ship of State
- Analysis reading: Ellis, Joseph J. 'Founding Brothers', New York, N.Y., Random House, 2000
- Reference reading: none
- Primary source reading: Becker, Susan D. (et. al.) Discovering the American Past: A Look at the Evidence Volume I, Boston, Ma. 2002: The First American Party System (*pg. 94-116*)

○ Assignment 2

- Theme 1: The Trials of Jefferson as President
- Theme 2: The War of 1812

Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch. 11-12, the Jeffersonian Republic and the Second War for Independence

- Analysis reading: None
- Reference reading: None
- Primary source reading: The American Spirit Vol. I, John Marshall and the Supreme Court (*pg. 216-219*), Launching the Monroe Doctrine (*pg. 252-257*)

○ Assignment 3

- Theme 1: The Rise of Jackson
- Theme 2: Jackson as President
- Theme 3: The Role of the Common Man
- Theme 4: The New National Economy
 - Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch. 13-15: The Rise of Mass Democracy, Forging the National Economy, The Ferment of Reform and Culture

- Analysis reading: Norton Mary Beth (editor) 'To Toil The Livelong Day: America's Women at Work', (*selected readings*)
- Reference reading: None
- Primary source reading: The American Spirit Vol. I, The Nullification Crisis (271-276), The Spread of the Factory (288-294)

Second Quarter

Unit 3: The New Nation in Crisis

- Topic A: The “Peculiar Institution”; Slavery in the American South
- Topic B: Spreading Westward (Hemispheric Hegemony)
- Topic C: The Stormy 50’s
- Topic D: The Civil War
- Topic E: The Difficulties of Reconstruction
 - Assignment 1
 - Theme 1: A Cotton Based Economy
 - Theme 2: The Human Face of Slavery
 - Theme 3: Abolition as a Crusade
 - Theme 4: Sectional Differences
 - Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch.16: The South and the Slavery Controversy
 - Analysis reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Pg. 368: “What was the True Nature of Slavery?”
 - Reference reading: Stowe, Harriet Beecher, Uncle Tom’s Cabin, any edition such as Signet Classic (published serially in 1851/52) *note: this should also be viewed as a primary source.
 - Primary source reading: The American Spirit Vol. I, Pg. 351-378: Selected Readings on ‘The South and the Slavery Controversy’
 - Assignment 2
 - Theme 1: Manifest Destiny as an Ideology
 - Theme 2: The Texas Question
 - Theme 3: The Oregon Question
 - Theme 4: The Mexican Cession (Fuel for the Sectional Struggle)

- Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch17-18: Manifest Destiny and The Sectional Struggle
 - Analysis reading: None
 - Reference reading: None
 - Primary source reading: None
- Assignment 3
 - Theme 1: Drifting Towards Civil War
 - Theme 2: Lincoln and Douglas as Central Characters
 - Theme 3: John Brown, Martyr or Maniac?
 - Theme 4: The Dred Scott case
 - Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch 19
 - Analysis reading: View; Ken Burns The Civil War (episode I, the Cause)
 - Reference reading: Continue Uncle Tom's Cabin
 - Primary source reading: The American Spirit Vol. I, Pg. 428-435: Harpers Ferry, Lincoln-Douglas Debates, Presidential Campaign of 1860
- Assignment 4
 - Theme 1: The Outbreak of Hostilities
 - Theme 2: The Civil War
 - Theme 3: Strengths and Weaknesses of the North
 - Theme 4: Strengths and Weaknesses of the South
 - Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch 21-22 Girding for War and The Furnace of Civil War
 - Analysis reading: None
 - Reference reading: None
 - Primary source reading: None
- Assignment 5

- Theme 1: Radical Republicans
- Theme 2: Military Reconstruction
- Theme 3: The KKK and 'Jim Crow'
- Theme 4: The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson
 - Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch 22: The Ordeal of Reconstruction
 - Analysis reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Pg. 498 *Varying Viewpoints; 'How Radical Was Reconstruction?'*
 - Reference reading: None
 - Primary source reading: The American Spirit Vol. I, Pg. 506-518: "Black Reconstruction" and The K.K.K.

Unit 4: The Rise of American Industry

- Topic A: The Creation of Corporate America and Laissez-faire Economics
- Topic B: The Labor Movement 1870-1914
- Topic C: The Agricultural Revolution and the Populists
- Topic D: The Rise of Urban America and the New Immigration
 - Assignment 1
 - Theme 1: Corporate Greed and Political Corruption 1869-1898
 - Theme 2: From the Knights of Labor to the A.F.of L. and beyond
 - Theme 3: Farmers Declare War on Industrial America (William Jennings Bryan et. al.)
 - Theme 4: Isolationism and Xenophobia
 - Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch. 23-26: The Gilded Age, Industry Comes of Age, America Moves to the City, The Agricultural Revolution
 - Analysis reading: Hofstadter, Richard 'The Age of Reform', New York, N.Y., Random House, 1955: Selected Passages

- Reference reading: Norton Mary Beth (editor) ‘To Toil The Livelong Day: America’s Women at Work’: Selected Passages
- Primary source reading: Becker, Susan D. (et. al.) Discovering the American Past : A Look at the Evidence Volume II. Boston, Ma. Houghton Mifflin, 2002, Pg 57-99: How They Lived: Middle Class Life, 1870-1917

○ Assignment 2

- Theme 1: Building an Overseas Empire
- Theme 2: America on the World Stage
- Theme 3: Teddy Roosevelt and His “Big Stick”
- Theme 4: The New Nationalism and Increasing World Tension
 - Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy Ch. 27-28: The Path to Empire and America on the World Stage 1890-1909
 - Analysis reading: none
 - Reference reading: Please refer to summer reading relative to Frederick Jackson Turner and His Thesis and subsequent critiques.
 - Primary source reading: The American Spirit Vol. I, Pg.174-178 and 194-197: Yellow Journalism in Flower and The Monroe Doctrine in the Caribbean

Third Quarter

Unit 5: The Progressive Impulse; Seeking Justice at Home and Abroad

- Topic A: The Evolving Responsibilities of a World Power
- Topic B: Progressive Reforms in Politics, Society and Industry
- Topic C: Wilson, Roosevelt and the ‘Thirty Years War’ 1914-1945
- Topic D: Economics in the Modern Age (Boom and Bust)
 - Assignment 1
 - Theme 1: The ‘Open Door policy’
 - Theme 2: The Panama Canal and World Markets
 - Theme 3: The Mexico Problem
 - Theme 4: Problems in the Philippines
 - Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch. 28: America on the World Stage
 - Analysis reading: none
 - Reference reading: Mahan, Alfred Thayer The Influence of Sea Power Upon History; Selected readings and overview by instructor.
 - Primary source reading: See previous assignments
 - Assignment 2
 - Theme 1: The Progressive Impulse and Middle Class Women
 - Theme 2: The Impact of Muckraking
 - Theme 3: Fighting ‘Bob’ LaFollette and Political Reform
 - Theme 4: The Legacy of the Sherman Anti-trust Act
 - Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch. 29-30; Progressivism and T. Roosevelt and Progressivism and Wilson

- Analysis reading: Hofstadter, Richard 'The Age of Reform', New York, N.Y., Random House, 1955; Selected Passages
Reference reading: Sinclair, Upton, the Jungle New York: Bantam Books, 1906; *please re-visit summer reading*
- Primary source reading: Examine selected Jacob Riis Photos and discuss

○ Assignment 3

- Theme 1: The Difficulties of Neutrality 1914-1917
- Theme 2: America in WWI and the Failure of the 14 Points
- Theme 3: Isolationism in a Global Economy 1919-1939
- Theme 4: America in WWII
 - Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy Ch 30, 31, 35 and 36; Wilson at Home and Abroad, The War to End All War, F.D.R. and the Shadow of War and America in WWII
 - Analysis reading: Norton Mary Beth (editor) 'To Toil The Livelong Day: America's Women at Work', *selected readings relative to women in time of war*
 - Reference reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Pg. 726; 'Wilson: Realist or Idealist?'
 - Primary source reading: Becker, Susan D. (et. al.) Discovering the American Past : A Look at the Evidence Volume II. Boston, Ma. Houghton Mifflin, 2002, Pg. 205-233; Presidential Leadership, Public Opinion, and the Coming of WWII

○ Assignment 4

- Theme 1: The Beginning of Modern Social Behavior, the 20s'
- Theme 2: The Economics of Mass Consumption
- Theme 3: The Great Crash and the Depression

- Theme 4: The New Deal, Government as an Active Fiscal Agent
 - Text reading: Bailey, Kennedy Ch. 32, 33 and 34; The Roaring Twenties, The Politics of Boom and Bust and The New deal
 - Analysis reading: none
 - Reference reading: A.H.A. article on John Maynard Keynes and the impact of deficit spending. (*see instructor for packet*)
 - Primary source reading: The American Spirit Vol. II, Pg. 309-327; The Great Depression and the New Deal

Fourth Quarter

Unit 6: Modern America 1945 to the Present

- Topic A: The Origins and Outcome of the Cold War, 1945-1989
 - Topic B: The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit, the Fifties
 - Topic C: The Stormy Sixties
 - Topic D: The New Conservatism, Globalism and Environmentalism
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- Assignment 1
 - Theme 1: A Bi-Polar World, The U.S vs. the U.S.S.R.
 - Theme 2: Containment, Greece and Korea (the Truman Doctrine)
 - Theme 3: Early Involvement in Vietnam
 - Theme 4: The Military Industrial Complex
 - Text reading: Halberstam, David, 'The Fifties', New N.Y., Random House, 1993, Pg.1-172 York,
 - Analysis reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Pg. 886; 'Who Was to Blame for the Cold War?'
 - Reference reading: none
 - Primary source reading: The American Spirit Vol. II Pg.437-463; The Eisenhower Era
 - Assignment 2
 - Theme 1: The Seeds of the Civil Rights Movement
 - Theme 2: The Space Race
 - Theme 3: McCarthyism (the second 'Red Scare')
 - Theme 4: The Consumer Culture and Conformity
 - Text reading: Halberstam, David, 'The Fifties', New York, N.Y., Random House, 1993, Pg.172-733 (*this is the culmination of a long term project*)
 - Analysis reading: none
 - Reference reading: none

- Primary source reading: The American Spirit Vol. II, Pg. 446-452; 'The Supreme Court and the Black Revolution'

○ Assignment 3

- Theme 1: The 'New frontier'
- Theme 2: The 'Great Society'
- Theme 3: The Struggle for Civil Rights
- Theme 4: The Vietnam Debacle
 - Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch. 39 and 40; The Stormy Sixties and The Stalemate of the Seventies
 - Analysis reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Pg. 944; The Sixties: Constructive or Destructive?
 - Reference reading: none
 - Primary source reading: Becker, Susan D. (et. al.) Discovering the American Past: A Look at the Evidence Volume II, Boston, Ma. Houghton Mifflin, 2002, Pg. 253-288; A Generation in War and Turmoil: The Agony of Vietnam

○ Assignment 4

- Theme 1: The Opening of China, Détente and Watergate
- Theme 2: The Middle East, Oil and the Rise of Fundamentalist Islam
- Theme 3: The Reagan Revolution and the Collapse of Communism
- Theme 4: Americans Face New Challenges in a New Century
 - Text reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Ch. 41 and 42; The Resurgence of Conservatism and The American People Face a New Century

- Analysis reading: Bailey and Kennedy, Pg. 1013 'Where did Modern Conservatism Come From? '
- Reference reading: none
- Primary source reading: The American Spirit Vol. II, Pg. 557- 590; The Resurgence of Conservatism

*Note: Take careful note of 1) deadline postings, 2) test and exam dates, 3) times and specific locations for off-campus A.P. Exam review sessions at Bowdoin College!