

---

# PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE SYLLABUS: AP UNITED STATES HISTORY

---

### **Course Overview and Essential Skills**

Advanced Placement United States History is an intensive study of the history of the United States from 1491-Present. It makes similar academic demands that are expected of college level students taking one of normally two introductory courses covering the same content material as our class. This means that you will be called upon to do more than just “just know the facts” about US history. Rather, you will be taught how to think historically and apply the tools and skill-set of a historian to the content of United States history

You may be wondering if you can really do the same level work as a college student, but I assure you that countless PT students have found success in the APUSH class and on the AP US History test put out by College Board every May. The one thing all of these successful students have in common is that they commit themselves to putting in the time and effort necessary to excel at the advanced placement level. So what does that look like?

- Staying on top of the assigned reading of thirty to sixty pages from a college-level text per week
- Being an active reader who takes notes and asks questions about what they have read
- Engaging in classroom activities and discussion as a way to practice and improve upon the new skills you will acquire. Remember, class is not a test! The most successful students are the ones that are willing to make mistakes and learn from them before they get to the test.
- Prioritizing periodic review- cramming will not work in APUSH
- Taking advantage of all optional and bonus opportunities provided
- Being willing to ask for extra help when you need it- You get to tread the waters of college level history while wearing a high school life vest, take advantage of it!

If you are willing to sign on to all of this, you can expect a class that is fast-paced and rigorous, but also fun and rewarding. A former student described APUSH best when they said-

*“It is a little like working out, its hard work but you do it because you know it is good for you, and when you are done, you are really glad you did it.”*

### **Course Textbook and Required Materials**

- *By the People* by James Fraser (2015) ISBN # 978-0-13-136633-6
- Edmodo class website- Class Code \_\_\_\_\_

### **Course Outline of Material Covered:**

Unit	Concepts/Skills/Resources	Timeframe
Period 1: 1491- 1607	As native populations migrated and settled across the vast expanse of North America over time, they developed distinct and increasingly complex societies by adapting to and transforming their diverse environments.  Contact among Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans resulted in the Columbian Exchange and significant social, cultural and political changes on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean	1-2 Weeks
Period 2: 1607- 1754	Europeans developed a variety of colonization and migration patterns, influenced by different imperial goals, cultures, and varied North American environments where they	2-3 Weeks

	<p>settled, and they competed with each other and American Indians for resources</p> <p>The British colonies participated in political, social, cultural, and economic exchanges with Great Britain that encouraged both stronger bonds with Britain and resistance to Britain's control</p>	
Period 3: 1754-1800	<p>British attempts to assert tighter control over its North American colonies and the colonial resolve to pursue self-government led to a colonial independence movement and the Revolutionary War</p> <p>The American Revolution's democratic and republican ideals inspired new experiments with different forms of government</p> <p>Migration within North America and competition over resources, boundaries, and trade intensified conflicts among peoples and nations</p> <p>Viewing of clips from <i>The Patriot</i></p>	2-3 Weeks
Period 4: 1800-1848	<p>The United States began to develop a modern democracy and celebrated a new national culture, while Americans sought to define the nation's democratic ideals and change their society and institutions to match them</p> <p>Innovations in technology, agriculture, and commerce powerfully accelerated the American economy, precipitating profound changes to US society and to national and regional identities</p> <p>The US interest in increasing foreign trade and expanding its national borders shaped the nation's foreign policy and spurred government and private initiatives</p> <p>Viewing of clips from <i>John Adams</i></p>	2-3 Weeks
Period 5: 1844-1877	<p>The United States became more connected with the world, pursued by expansionist foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere, and emerged as the destination for many migrants from other countries</p> <p>Intensified by expansion and deepening regional divisions, debates over slavery and other economic, cultural and political issues led the nation into civil war</p> <p>The Union victory in the Civil War and the contested reconstruction of the South settled the issues of slavery and secession, but left unresolved many questions about the power of the federal government and citizenship rights</p>	3-4 Weeks
Period 6: 1865-1898	<p>Technological advances, large-scale production methods, and the opening of new markets encouraged the rise of industrial capitalism in the United States</p> <p>The migrations that accompanied industrialization transformed both urban and rural areas of the United States and caused dramatic social and cultural change</p> <p>The Gilded Age produced new cultural and intellectual movements, public reform efforts, and political debates over economic and social policies</p>	3-4 Weeks
Period 7: 1890-1945	<p>Growth expanded opportunity, while economic instability led to new efforts to reform US</p>	3-4 Weeks

	<p>society and its economic system</p> <p>Innovations in communications and technology contributed to the growth of mass culture, while significant changes occurred in internal and international migration</p> <p>Participation in a series of global conflicts propelled the United States into a position of international power while renewing domestic debates over the nation's proper role in the world.</p>	
Period 8: 1945- 1980	<p>The United States responded to an uncertain and unstable postwar world by asserting and working to maintain a position of global leadership, with far-reaching domestic and international consequences</p> <p>New movements for civil rights and liberal efforts to expand the role of government generated a range of political and cultural responses</p> <p>Postwar economic and demographic changes had far-reaching consequences for American society, politics, and culture</p>	4-5 Weeks
Period 9: 1980- Present	<p>A newly ascendant conservative movement achieved several political and policy goals during the 1980's and continued to strongly influence public discourse in the following decades</p> <p>Moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the nation experienced significant technological, economic, and demographic changes</p> <p>The end of the Cold War and new challenges to US leadership forced the nation to redefine its foreign policy and role in the world</p> <p><u>Viewing of <i>Forrest Gump</i> after the AP exam</u></p>	1-2 Weeks

***\*Depending on the needs of the class or changes in the school year, the course outline is subject to change.***