

October, 2013

A Special Note to Teachers of 2-Year AP United States History Courses

When the AP Program announced the Redesigned AP U.S. History course in October 2012, it was with the expectation that doing so would allow most teachers two years to prepare for teaching the new course and the first administration of the redesigned exam in May 2015. However, teachers in some schools, districts, and states -- most notably, Alabama and New Jersey -- teach high school United States History in a two-year sequence and thus will begin preparing students for the 2015 AP exam in fall 2013. What should teachers in this situation do to make sure their students are prepared for the redesigned AP U.S. History exam?

- **Download the Curriculum Framework and other resources from Advances in AP (advancesinap.collegeboard.org).** The Curriculum Framework contains learning objectives for the course as well as very detailed information about the skills and knowledge to develop in the first half of the AP U.S. History course. The concept outline of the Curriculum Framework lays out the key concepts for Periods 1-5 of the revised curriculum, covering the dates 1491 to 1877 (the first half of the college-level U.S. History survey course). The Curriculum Framework also provides the design for the exam that will be administered in 2015 as well as sample questions. Advances in AP also contains a document covering Frequently Asked Questions and a video overview of the redesigned course and exam
- **Remember that you will not need to submit a syllabus through the Course Audit for the redesigned course until 2014.** The Advances in AP site mentioned above contains information and the timetable for syllabus submission and AP course authorization in the 2014-15 academic year.
- **Join the AP Teacher Community (apcommunity.collegeboard.org)** to participate in teachers' discussions about preparing for the redesigned course and exam, and to gain access to important information supporting the redesign:
 - Presentations from the 2013 AP Reading on Teaching Period 9 by Development Committee co-chair Ted Dickson and on Writing Short-Answer Questions by Development Committee member John Irish
 - An Annotated Resource Guide listing hundreds of useful teaching resources organized around the content of the redesigned course
 - Links, resources, and other materials for each unit of the redesigned course added by AP teachers from around the world



- **Look at resources relating to U.S. History content already on [AP Central](#).** These include:
 - **Curriculum Modules**
 - [White–Native American Contact in Early American History \(.pdf/354KB\)](#)
 - **Special Focus Materials**
 - [Antebellum Reform \(.pdf/299KB\)](#)
 - [Immigration in US History \(.pdf/836KB\)](#)
 - **Teaching and Curriculum Units**
 - [Teaching Unit: Colonial America, 1492-1763](#)
 - [Curriculum Unit: The Age of Jackson](#)
 - **Teaching Abstracts: Recent Research**
 - [Richard White: Imagine There Is No Country](#)
 - [David Brion Davis: Looking at Slavery from Broader Perspectives](#)
 - **U.S. History Related Articles**
 - [The Origins of American Slavery](#)
 - [Why Tea? The Global Story of the American Revolution](#)
 - [Crossing National Borders: Locating the United States in Migration History](#)
 - [America, the Atlantic, and Global Consumer Demand, 1500-1800](#)
 - [The Declaration of Independence in World Context](#)
- **Be on the lookout for additional teaching resources coming soon.** These will include five teacher-authored Course Planning and Pacing Guides to provide activities and assessments based on the redesigned course format from a variety of instructional settings; a complete practice exam; and sample syllabi and a syllabus development guide from the AP Course Audit web site; and a new publication containing all Document-Based Questions from the 1973 through 1999 AP U.S. History Exam.
- **Contact your district's textbook publisher** to find out when they will have teacher and student support materials aligned with the redesign available for your district. We have heard from many publishers that they are hard at work creating ancillary materials aligned with the redesigned course and exam and will be rolling these materials out over the next two years.
- **Plan to participate in [professional development](#) opportunities in 2013 and 2014** to become familiar with the course changes and receive support in planning.

Finally, if you are a New Jersey teacher, there will be a **College Board presentation** on the redesigned AP U.S. History course at the New Jersey Council for the Social Sciences meeting on October 23, 2013 in Piscataway, NJ. We hope you will consider attending this event.

We hope that these steps can help you and your students successfully begin preparing for the redesigned AP U.S. History exam. To request additional information, please contact the College Board at DevelopmentsInAP@collegeboard.org.