

2009 Syllabus for United States History

July 27 –31, 2009

Institute Overview

Welcome to the summer institute for AP U.S. History. I am looking forward to working with you, and I promise to do my best to tailor the workshop to meet your individual needs. To that end, I encourage you to contact me in advance via e-mail with any requests to address specific issues or topics. My e-mail address is carl@schulkin.org. My goal is to help you develop or refine the best possible United States History survey course and, at the same time, prepare your students to succeed on the Advanced Placement Examination. Our sessions will address developing your course syllabus, mastering major themes and issues in United States history, strategies for preparing students for the AP exam, using previous AP exams as teaching materials, utilizing AP Central and other electronic resources, and the AP Audit. I hope to equip those of you who are new to AP U.S. History with everything you need to develop a successful program, while giving those of you who are veteran AP teachers the opportunity to exchange ideas and revise your course. There are many different paths to success in teaching AP U.S. History, and I hope to be able to help each of you discover the path best suited to your personal teaching style.

Consultant Background

Carl Schulkin

I earned my B.A. in History from Brown University and my M.A. and Ph.D in History from the University of California, Berkeley. I have taught American Civilization History and AP United States History at Pembroke Hill School in Kansas City, Missouri for the past 35 years. I was a workshop leader for the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation's National Leadership Program for Teachers from 1990 to 1994 and a regional leader of the American Social History Project's New Media Classroom Program from 1998 to 2001. I have been an AP United States History reader for ten years and a United States History Consultant for the AP program since 1993. I have been leading week-long AP Summer Institutes in Kansas and in Ohio since 2002.



Institute Preparation

My course syllabi and many of my teaching materials are posted on my Website, <http://schulkin.org>. I encourage you to examine them prior to our workshop and come prepared with any follow up questions you might have. If you have a laptop computer you would like to bring with you to the workshop, I encourage you to do so. In addition to the materials posted on my Website, I will bring with me on a flash drive electronic copies of notes, lesson plans and other teaching materials to share with you. I encourage you to do likewise, and I will be happy to provide the opportunity for you to present a favorite AP U.S. History lesson you have developed to our group.

Institute Syllabus

Monday Morning Sessions

Introduction to the Institute and Introductions (Getting to Know Each Other)
Discussion of participants' needs and objectives for the week
What does it mean to teach an AP as opposed to a regular U.S. History course?
Striking a balance between content, critical skills and exam preparation
Different ways of constructing an AP U.S. History course syllabus

Monday Afternoon Sessions

Mapping out the year and pacing yourself
Finding Web-based and other electronic resources
Selecting a textbook and finding other print resources
Creating assignments (including utilizing materials from previous AP exams)

Tuesday Morning Sessions

Getting Off to a Good Start at the Beginning of the Year
Using Music, Art and other non-traditional resources as teaching materials
Introduction to AP Exam Prep
Discussion: Teaching Students How to Answer the DBQ

Tuesday Afternoon Sessions

How the DBQ is "Graded"
A Mock "Ranking" Session using a DBQ from a Recent Exam
Striking a balance among political, social, economic, diplomatic and cultural history

Wednesday Morning Sessions

Selective Review of Key Issues in Early American History to 1800
Discussion: Best Practice Lessons and Teaching Materials for the period 1763-1800
Utilizing Questions from previous AP exams as Teaching Materials and for Exam Prep

Wednesday Afternoon Sessions

Selective Review of Key Issues in United States History, 1800-1877
Discussion: Best Practice Lessons and Teaching Materials for the period 1800-1877
Utilizing Questions from previous AP exams as Teaching Materials and for Exam Prep

Thursday Morning Sessions

Selective Review of Key Issues in United States History, 1877-1920
Discussion: Best Practice Lessons and Teaching Materials for period 1877-1920
Utilizing Questions from previous AP exams as Teaching Materials and for Exam Prep

Thursday Afternoon Sessions

Selective Review of Key Issues in United States History, 1920-2008
Discussion: Best Practice Lessons and Teaching Materials for period 1920-2008
Utilizing Questions from previous AP exams as Teaching Materials and for Exam Prep
Discussion: How much attention should be devoted to the period since 1980?

Friday Morning Sessions

Demonstration Lessons by Consultant and/or Participants
Have we achieved all the objectives we set for ourselves at the beginning of the week?
Keeping in touch: discussion of plans for ongoing collaboration during the school year

Graduate Credit Option

Participants may also earn three graduate education hours for any of the AP Summer Institutes from Washburn University for a reduced tuition and the successful completion of an academic assignment.

Additional Information

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