

APEX US History

Class Description:

This class meets the graduation requirement for the State of Washington and Kennewick School District.

U.S. History traces the nation's history from the pre-colonial period to the present. Students learn about the Native American, European, and African people who lived in America before it became the United States. They examine the beliefs and philosophies that informed the American Revolution and the subsequent formation of the government and political system. Students investigate the economic, cultural, and social motives for the nation's expansion, as well as the conflicting notions of liberty that eventually resulted in civil war. The course describes the emergence of the United States as an industrial nation and then focuses on its role in modern world affairs.

Moving into the 20th and 21st centuries, students probe the economic and diplomatic interactions between the United States and other world players while investigating how the world wars, the Cold War, and the "information revolution" affected the lives of ordinary Americans. Woven through this chronological sequence is a strong focus on the changing conditions of women, African Americans, and other minority groups.

The course emphasizes the development of historical analysis skills such as comparing and contrasting, differentiating between facts and interpretations, considering multiple perspectives, and analyzing cause-and-effect relationships. These skills are applied to text interpretation and in written assignments that guide learners step-by-step through problem-solving activities.

Learning Materials:

APEX is a complete curriculum, other than a computer a student does not need any additional materials.

Learning Goals:

The content is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards. This course meets graduation requirements and meets at least one GLE and/or EALR.

Learning Activities:

Student will complete Study, Discussion, Activity and a Quiz for each section in a unit and then will complete a unit exam. Activities are based on a student earning a min. of 70% or better in each activity.

Evaluation:

On each month's progress reports, student will report completion and mastery of learning activities designed to reach specific goals within the course description.

In addition, students will keep portfolios of their written work, quizzes, and tests to show their consultants and/or HQ teachers.

Every month progress will be determined by the HQ teacher of this course based on the question: "Will the student master his performance objectives by the end of the course?" The HQ teacher will take into consideration ALL factors (including student life situation, effort, attitude, etc.) when making this professional judgment.

Each month, the student will be expected to master approximately 10% of the yearly goals for this class (or 20% of semester goals), with all of the goals being met by the end of the year (or semester.) The mastery of any one goal may be an on-going process and some goals may overlap or be difficult to measure. Evaluation of progress toward the mastery of the goals will be based on monthly completion (or progress toward completion) of the learning activities that are designed to provide the means to achieving the goals of the learning plan. With that said, monthly progress can still be marked satisfactory based on the professional judgment of the teacher that the student will complete the goals of the course.