AP US History: 8 Thematic Learning Objectives

These eight themes address the broad recurring patterns and topics in U.S. History

(***and largely serve as the basis for the short answer/DBQ/long essay sections of the exam***):

**1. American and National Identity**—How and why definitions of American and national identity and values have developed; includes related topics such as citizenship, constitutionalism, foreign policy, assimilation, and American exceptionalism. *Ex: The American Revolution changed the identity of Americans from British colonial subjects to citizens of a free and independent republic.*

**2. Work, Exchange, and Technology**—The factors that behind the development of systems of economic exchange, particularly the role of technology, economic markets, and government (and how each influenced the economy). *Ex: the transportation revolution in the 19th century transformed the market economy and the lives of farmers, workers, and consumers.*

**3. Geography and the Environment**—Role of geography and both the natural and human-made environments on social and political developments in what would become the U.S. *Ex: how did the frontier experience shape early settlers’ attitudes towards the natural environments?*

**4. Migration and Settlement**—Why the various people who moved to and within the United States both adapted to and transformed their new social and physical environments. *Ex: how immigration of Irish and German Catholics in 19th century through the arrival of southern and eastern Europeans in the early 20th century to recent Hispanic migration have each affected U.S. society.*

**5. Politics and Power**—How different social and political groups have influenced society and government in the United States, as well as how political beliefs and institutions have changed over time. *Ex: how the debate over government policies in Congress during the 1790s led to the development of political ties in the United States.*

**6. America in the World**—The interactions between nations that affected North American history in the colonial period and on the influence of the United States on world affairs. *Ex: how the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars challenged U.S. efforts to remain neutral and ultimately contributed to U.S. involvement in the War of 1812.*

**7. American and Regional Culture**—How and why national, regional, and group cultures developed and changed as well as how culture has shaped government policy and the economy. *Ex: Growth of union activism in the industrial North*

**8. Social Structures**—How and why systems of social organization (categories, roles, and practices) develop and change as well as the impact that these systems have on the broader society. *Ex: Southern plantations*

Source: *AP![C:\Users\Hawkins PC\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\7Z42N3IH\Trademark-symbol[1].png]()United States History Course and Exam Description*

**1. American and National Identity—List 3-5 historical example for each period**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Period 1 (1491-1607)** | **Period 2 (1607-1754)** | **Period 3 (1754-1800)** |
| **Period 4 (1800-1848)** | **Period 5 (1848-1877)** | **Period 6 (1865-1898)** |
| **Period 7 (1898-1945)** | **Period 8 (1945-1980)** | **Period 9 (1980-Present)**  |

**2. Work, Exchange and Technology—List 3-5 historical examples for each period**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Period 1 (1491-1607)** | **Period 2 (1607-1754)** | **Period 3 (1754-1800)** |
| **Period 4 (1800-1848)** | **Period 5 (1848-1877)** | **Period 6 (1865-1898)** |
| **Period 7 (1898-1945)** | **Period 8 (1945-1980)** | **Period 9 (1980-Present)**  |

**3. Geography and the Environment—List 3-5 historical examples for each period**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Period 1 (1491-1607)** | **Period 2 (1607-1754)** | **Period 3 (1754-1800)** |
| **Period 4 (1800-1848)** | **Period 5 (1848-1877)** | **Period 6 (1865-1898)** |
| **Period 7 (1898-1945)** | **Period 8 (1945-1980)** | **Period 9 (1980-Present)**  |

**4. Migration and Settlement—List 3-5 historical examples for each period**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Period 1 (1491-1607)** | **Period 2 (1607-1754)** | **Period 3 (1754-1800)** |
| **Period 4 (1800-1848)** | **Period 5 (1848-1877)** | **Period 6 (1865-1898)** |
| **Period 7 (1898-1945)** | **Period 8 (1945-1980)** | **Period 9 (1980-Present)**  |

**5. Politics and Power—List 3-5 historical examples for each period**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Period 1 (1491-1607)** | **Period 2 (1607-1754)** | **Period 3 (1754-1800)** |
| **Period 4 (1800-1848)** | **Period 5 (1848-1877)** | **Period 6 (1865-1898)** |
| **Period 7 (1898-1945)** | **Period 8 (1945-1980)** | **Period 9 (1980-Present)**  |

**6. America in the World—List 3-5 historical examples for each period**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Period 1 (1491-1607)** | **Period 2 (1607-1754)** | **Period 3 (1754-1800)** |
| **Period 4 (1800-1848)** | **Period 5 (1848-1877)** | **Period 6 (1865-1898)** |
| **Period 7 (1898-1945)** | **Period 8 (1945-1980)** | **Period 9 (1980-Present)**  |

**7. American and Regional Culture—List 3-5 historical examples for each period**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Period 1 (1491-1607)** | **Period 2 (1607-1754)** | **Period 3 (1754-1800)** |
| **Period 4 (1800-1848)** | **Period 5 (1848-1877)** | **Period 6 (1865-1898)** |
| **Period 7 (1898-1945)** | **Period 8 (1945-1980)** | **Period 9 (1980-Present)**  |

**8. Social Structures—List 3-5 historical examples for each period**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Period 1 (1491-1607)** | **Period 2 (1607-1754)** | **Period 3 (1754-1800)** |
| **Period 4 (1800-1848)** | **Period 5 (1848-1877)** | **Period 6 (1865-1898)** |
| **Period 7 (1898-1945)** | **Period 8 (1945-1980)** | **Period 9 (1980-Present)**  |