

AP US History: New Course Design (Skills and Standards)

The new format for the AP US History course and exam requires students to apply historical thinking skills to the newly delineated learning objectives divided across broad thematic concepts. Every AP Exam question will require students to employ a historical thinking skill with a learning objective. The following are the historical thinking skills, themes, and learning objectives for the AP US History course beginning with the 2014-2015 school year.

Historical Thinking Skills

Skill Type	Historical Thinking Skill
I. Chronological Reasoning	1. Historical Causation
	2. Patterns of Continuity & Change / Time
	3. Periodization
II. Comparison & Contextualization	4. Comparison
	5. Contextualization
III. Crafting Historical Arguments from Historical Evidence	6. Historical Argumentation
	7. Appropriate Use of Relevant Historical Evidence
IV. Historical Interpretation & Synthesis	8. Interpretation
	9. Synthesis

AP US History Themes

1. Identity
2. Work, Exchange, and Technology
3. Peopling
4. Politics and Power
5. America and the World
6. Environment and Geography - physical and human
7. Ideas, Beliefs, and Culture

AP US History Periods

1491-1607
1607-1754
1754-1800
1800-1848
1844-1877
1865-1898
1890-1945
1945-1980
1980-present

*** Designing AP US History lessons with the new course design should pair content objectives from a particular period with themes and historical thinking skills.

It is now a three-part process to design instruction for AP US History.

