

# AP United States History

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The AP program in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials – their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance – and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. An AP United States History student should thus develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively. An in-depth look at various leaders will allow the student to learn more about leadership styles at various times in US history.

## ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Critical Thinking, Listening, Oral Communication, Problem Solving, Reading, Research, Technology, Writing

## APPLICATIONS/CONNECTIONS

United States History explores our nation's past to show students how our political, economic, and cultural institutions have been shaped by events. The course also provides insights into our past leaders' actions and their legacies so that future citizens and leaders can make educated and informed decisions.

### Mr. Greg Dommissie

"You can learn a lot about the present by learning about the past."

Mr. Dommissie is another example of being one of the best history teachers students will ever encounter. Not only will they be amazed at his extensive range of knowledge, but his funny and poignant sense of humor will always entertain and liven up every discussion. With his room covered in TIME covers, Mr. Dommissie brings focus into real world issues as well as past issues.

Proud to call his birthplace Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Dommissie was actually raised right here in Richmond, Virginia. He attended Douglas Freeman High School and went on to graduate from Virginia Commonwealth University with a B.S. in History and a Masters of Teaching. He has long known he would become a teacher because his dad was a college professor.

Mr. Dommissie's class is unique because it is the second year Leadership students have the option of adding an AP class to their schedules. Mr. Dommissie ensures high performance for the test through his elaborate lectures and extensive range of knowledge. In his class there are many connections and applications made between the text and current events. He provides students with a sense about world affairs and draws parallels to the other history courses taken within the Center.

Mr. Dommissie has been teaching at James River High School since it opened. He coached the basketball team in the past, and he is currently serving as one of the coaches of the baseball team.

A unique fact about Mr. Dommissie is that he has a summer home in Wisconsin where he enjoys fishing, hiking, kayaking, and class V white water rafting.