

# Themes in United States History

AP US History – Mr. Everett, 4-112 – September 2006



## 1. American Diversity

The diversity of the American people and the relationships among different groups. The roles of race, class, and ethnicity in the history of the United States.

## 2. American Identity

Views of the American national character and ideas about American exceptionalism. Recognizing regional differences within the context of what it means to be American.

## 3. Culture

Diverse individual and collective expressions through literature, art, philosophy, music, theatre and film throughout United States history. Popular culture and the dimensions of cultural conflict within American society.

## 4. Demographic Changes

Changes in birth, marriage, and death rates; life expectancy and family patterns; population size and density. The economic, social and political effects of immigration, internal migration and migratory networks.

## 5. Economic Transformations

Changes in trade, commerce, and technology across time. The effects of capitalist development, labor and unions, and consumerism.

## 6. Environment

Ideas about consumption and conservation of natural resources. The impact of population growth, industrialization, pollution, and urban and suburban expansion.

## 7. Globalization

Engagement with the rest of the world from the fifteenth century to the present: colonialism, mercantilism, global hegemony, development of markets, imperialism and cultural exchange (diffusion).

## 8. Politics and Citizenship

Colonial and revolutionary legacies, American political traditions, growth of democracy, and the development of the modern state. Defining citizenship; struggles for civil rights.

## 9. Reform

Diverse movements focusing on a broad range of issues, including anti-slavery, education, labor, temperance, women's rights, civil rights, gay rights, war, public health, and government.

## 10. Religion

The varieties of religious beliefs and practices in America from prehistory to the twenty-first century; influence of religion on politics, economics, and society.

## 11. Science and Technology

Advances in scientific thinking and the impact of technological innovation; famous inventors and the political, economic and social effects of their inventions; disputes between science and religion.

## 12. Slavery and Its Legacy

Systems of slave labor and other forms of unfree labor (e.g. indentured servants, contract labor) in Native American societies, the Atlantic world and the American South and West. The economics of slavery and its racial dimensions. Patterns of resistance and long-term economic, political and social effects of slavery.

## 13. War and Diplomacy

Armed conflict from the precolonial period to the twenty-first century; impact of war on American foreign policy and on politics, economics and society.

## 14. Women

Diversity relating to gender identity; political, economic and social issues related to gender equality and inequality; contributions of famous women, conflicts between patriarchal and women's rights issues.