

APUSH
Kailua High School
Social Studies Requirement
2021-2022
Mr. Wilson
<http://weisun.org>

Themes in APUSH

Themes in United States History:¹ The themes serve as the connective tissue of the course and enable students to create meaningful connections across units. They are often broader ideas that become threads that run throughout the course. Revisiting them and applying them in a variety of contexts helps students to develop deeper conceptual understanding. Below are the themes of the course and a brief description of each.

Theme 1: American and National Identity (NAT): This theme focuses on how and why definitions of American and national identity and values have developed among the diverse and changing population of North America as well as on related topics, such as citizenship, constitutionalism, foreign policy, assimilation, and American exceptionalism

Overarching questions: How and why have debates over American national identity changed over time? How have gender, class, ethnic, religious, regional, and other group identities changed in different eras?

Theme 2: Work, Exchange, and Technology (WXT): This theme focuses on the factors behind the development of systems of economic exchange, particularly the role of technology, economic markets, and government.

Overarching questions: How have changes in markets, transportation, and technology affected American society from colonial times to the present day? Why have different labor systems developed in British North America and the United States, and how have they affected U.S. society? How have debates over economic values and the role of government in the U.S. economy affected politics, society, the economy, and the environment?

Theme 3: Geography and the Environment (GEO): This theme focuses on the role of geography and the natural and human-made environments on social and political developments in what would become the United States.

Overarching questions: How did interactions with the natural environment shape the institutions and values of various groups living on the North American continent?

Theme 4: Migration and Settlement (MIG): This theme focuses on why and how the various people who moved to and within the United States both adapted to and transformed their new social and physical environments.

¹ These eight themes are taken from the AP College Board's *AP United States History: Course and Exam Description*, Effective Fall 2019.

Overarching questions: Why have people migrated to, from, and within North America? How have changes in migration and population patterns affected American life?

Theme 5: Politics and Power (PCE): This theme focuses on 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.

Overarching questions: How and why have different political and social groups competed for influence over society and government in what would become the United States? How have Americans agreed on or argued over the values that guide the political system as well as who is a part of the political process?

Theme 6: America in the World (WOR): This theme focuses on the interactions between nations that affected North American history in the colonial period and on the influence of the United States on world affairs.

Overarching questions: How have events in North America and the United States related to contemporary developments in the rest of the world? How have different factors influenced U.S. military, diplomatic, and economic involvement in international affairs and foreign conflicts, both in North America and overseas? How did economic and demographic changes affect the environment and lead to debates over use and control of the environment and natural resources?

Theme 7: American and Regional Culture (ARC)

This theme focuses on the how and why national, regional, and group cultures developed and changed as well as how culture has shaped government policy and the economy.

Theme 8: Social Structures (SOC)

This theme focuses on how and why systems of social organization develop and change as well as the impact that these systems have on the broader society.

Abbreviations:

NAT:-American and National Identity

WXT:Work, Exchange, and technology

GEO: Geography and the Environment

MIG: -Migration and Settlement

PCL:-Politics and Power

WOR: America in the World

ARC: American and Regional Culture

SOC: Social Structures