



# AMERICAN HISTORY FAQ'S FOR JUNIORS IN 2013-14



## **I am going to be a Junior next year, how do I satisfy the American History graduation requirement?**

As a junior, you can satisfy the American History requirement for graduation by completing AP U.S. History, American Studies, or U.S. History Traditional.

## **Which class should I take?**

To answer this you really need to know your own reading ability. One way to do this is to look at your EXPLORE or PLAN Reading Score (ask your counselor about this if you can't find your results) and find the course that best fits your abilities. Each class is designed to address the reading abilities and needs of a range of students. Selecting the appropriate course is critical for your growth and post high school plans. However, understand that we have had students with lower than recommended Reading Scores in each of these classes that have been successful due to their individual interest in the subject or their academic desire to improve. ***A Reading Score is just a guideline; the decision is ultimately about how much you want to challenge yourself.***

|                                 | <b>Content Covered</b>   | <b>Skills Expected</b>  |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>AP U.S. History</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📖 AP exam guided content that covers the entire American History experience.</li> <li>📖 Preparation for the AP exam in May.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ College level intensive reading. EXPLORE/PLAN Reading of 20+.</li> <li>☑ Regular use of document based essays.</li> <li>☑ Free response essays.</li> <li>☑ In-depth analysis of charts, graphs, maps and primary sources.</li> </ul> |
| <b>American Studies</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📖 The economic, political, social, and cultural history spanning from colonization to the 1990's.</li> <li>📖 Focused study of American Culture as it relates to each historical period</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Recommended for EXPLORE/PLAN Reading of 17+.</li> <li>☑ Analysis of culture, events, and people.</li> <li>☑ Intensive reading of more challenging passages.</li> <li>☑ Document analysis.</li> <li>☑ Essay writing.</li> </ul>       |
| <b>U.S. History Traditional</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📖 The economic, political, social, and cultural history spanning from colonization to the current presidency.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Recommended for EXPLORE/PLAN Reading up to 16.</li> <li>☑ Analysis of culture, events, and people.</li> <li>☑ Intensive reading instruction.</li> <li>☑ Document analysis.</li> <li>☑ Essay writing.</li> </ul>                      |

## **Which course is more difficult?**

AP US History is a college course, uses a college level textbook and is designed to prepare you to take the AP Exam in May to possibly earn college credit. American Studies and US History Traditional use the same high school level textbook, however US History Traditional provides significant instruction on how to become a better reader. Many students in US History Traditional will find that they become a better reader in any class because of the skills practiced US History.

## **If I sign up for one class and don't like it, can I switch into a different class?**

No. Since each course covers its own unique content, you are unable to switch into a different course once the semester begins. So choose wisely.

If you have questions, talk to a social studies teacher or Mr. Pankuch, the Department Chair for Social Studies, in G220, call him at 375-8856 or email him at [Donald\\_Pankuch@ipspd.org](mailto:Donald_Pankuch@ipspd.org).