

United States History and Government
Kailua High School
Social Studies Requirement
2021-2022
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THEMES IN US HISTORY

Themes in United States History:¹ These themes focus student understanding of major historical issues and developments, helping students to recognize broad trends and processes that have emerged over centuries in what has become the United States.

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.

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.

Theme 3: Geography and The Environment (GEO)

This theme focuses on the role of geography and both the natural and human-made environments in the social and political developments in what would become the United States.

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.

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.

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.

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

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 Environment

(MIG): Migration and Settlement

(PCE): Politics and Power

(WOR): America in the World

(ARC): America and Regional Culture

(SOC): Social Structures

Habits of Mind addressed by any rigorous history course.

- **1. Crafting Historical Arguments from Historical Evidence:** Students will learn to create or define a question about the past and address that question through constructing a thesis based argument based on historical evidence. Students will learn how to identify, describe, and evaluate historical evidence from various sources such as written documents, works of art, and archaeological artifacts.
- **2. Chronological Reasoning:** Students will learn how to identify, analyze, and evaluate relationships between multiple historical causes and effects. Chronological reasoning also includes the ability to recognize, analyze, and evaluate historical continuity and change over time. In addition to cause and effect and continuity and change, students will also learn to describe, analyze, evaluate, and construct models of historical periodization that involve turning points, narratives and contexts.
- **3. Comparison and Contextualization:** Students will learn how to describe, compare, and evaluate historical developments both within and between different societies, and within chronological and geographical contexts. In addition to comparing historical developments, students will learn how to connect historical developments to specific circumstances of time and place, and to broader regional, national, or global processes.
- **4. Historical Interpretation and Synthesis:** Students will learn how to describe, analyze, evaluate, and create diverse interpretations of the past--based on primary and secondary historical sources--through analysis of evidence, reasoning, contexts, points of view, and frames of reference. In addition to historical interpretation, students will learn how to synthesize the results of historical thinking skills into meaningful and persuasive understandings of the past.