

Pacing Basics, 2015-2016

School begins on August 24, 2015, and the AP exam is on May 6, 2016. First semester includes 37 class periods (90 minute blocks) and 4 semester exam days. Second semester includes 41 class periods (before AP exam) and 15 class periods and four final exam days (following AP exam). This pacing calendar includes those dates prior to the AP exam. Following the AP exams, students complete a creative research project in which they produce a product inspired by an event or historical theme.

Periods 1 and 9 are each only 5% of the testable material for the APUSH examination. However, this pacing calendar sets aside similar time allotments for these periods as the others. For Period 1, unit 1, time is set aside for preliminary skill instruction, and in Period 9, unit 9, focus is on change and continuity over time in addition to the era itself.

One pacing goal is to get through the Progressive Era by the end of the first semester. This pace is often impractical based on student progress and other variables, so finishing with the Gilded Age by December is often more realistic. Another goal is to set aside a minimum of three weeks (8 to 10 blocks) for thematic course review just prior to the AP exam.

Primary and Supplemental Textbooks

1. *By the People; A History of the United States AP® Edition*, James W. Fraser, 2015, Pearson.
2. *United States History Preparing for the Advanced Placement Examination*, John J. Newman and John M. Schmalbach, 2015 ed., AMSCO Publications, 2015

Unit Breakdown

Units of Study	Historical Periods	Chapters Covered	Length of Units
Unit 1	Periods 1 and 2 Pre-Columbian Era and Contact through Colonization, 1491-1754	AMSCO chapters 1-3, Pearson chapters 1-4	Following Introduction to the Course (first day of school), 5 days. 3 days content, 1 day review and consolidation, 1 test day.
Unit 2	Period 3 Revolutionary Era through the Early Republic, 1754-1800	AMSCO chapters 4-6, Pearson chapters 5-6	6 days. 4 days content (1 extra day for more in depth analysis of the founding documents), 1 day review and consolidation, 1 test day.
Unit 3	Period 4 Jefferson Era through Jackson Era Reforms, 1800-1848	AMSCO chapters 7-8,10-11, Pearson chapters 8-10	6 days. 4 days content, 1 day review and consolidation, 1 test day.
Unit 4	Period 5 Manifest Destiny, Sectionalism, Civil War through Reconstruction, 1844-1877	AMSCO chapters 9, 12-15, Pearson chapters 11-15	7 days. 5 days content, 1 day review and consolidation, 1 test day.
Unit 5	Period 6 Westward Expansion Gilded Age through the Progressive Era, 1865-1914	AMSCO chapters 16-19, 21, Pearson chapters 16-19	7 days. 5 days content, 1 day review and consolidation, 1 test day.
Unit 6	Period 7 Part 1 (<i>Period 7 is divided into two units</i>) Rise to Power, WWI through Twenties, 1890-1929	AMSCO chapters 21-23, Pearson chapters 19-21	Following Populist and Progressive review day (first day of second semester), 4 days. 2 days content , 1 day review and consolidation, 1 test day.
Unit 7	Period 7 Part 2 Great Depression through WWII, 1929-1945	AMSCO chapters 24-25, Pearson chapters 22-23	4 days. 2 days content, 1 day review and consolidation, 1 test day.
Unit 8	Period 8 Cold War through the 1970s, 1945-1980	AMSCO chapters 26-29, Pearson chapters 24-27	6 days. 4 days content, 1 day review and consolidation, 1 test day.
Unit 9	Period 9 The Reagan Era to the Present, 1980-Present	AMSCO chapters 30-31, Pearson chapters 28-30	4 days. 2 days content, 1 day review and consolidation, 1 test day.
Unit 10	Periods 1-9 Thematic Course Review, 1491-Present	AMSCO chapters 1-30, Pearson chapters 1-31	10 days. 7 days thematic review, 2 days mock exam practice and debriefing, 1 test day.

This pacing leaves several days unplanned/free for “wiggle room.” These days can be used for calendar amendments, state testing, assemblies, snow-days, and other interruptions that may occur. It is important to be flexible and to keep the best interest of the students in mind ... as well as staying committed to covering all periods, themes, and skills.