

# COLLEGEBOARD INFORMATION

**Collegeboard Events provide AP and PreAP Teachers an opportunity to share best practices, examine issues facing educators locally and globally, and earn continuing education units (CEUs).**

## CollegeBoard Updates and Changes

### Summary of July 30, 2015 release of 2015 AP US History Course and Exam Description Revisions:

**Main Reason Behind the Redesign in 2014:** AP U.S. History teachers were the major motivating factor in the course redesign process that the College Board began in 2006. Many AP teachers expressed frustration that the previous course did not provide sufficient time to immerse students in the major ideas, events, people, and documents of U.S. history, and that they were instead required to race through topics. The redesign was aimed at addressing this concern, resulting in a course framework that teachers and students began using in fall 2014.

**Main Reason Behind the Revisions of the 2014 Course Frameworks:** The 2014 edition of the *AP U.S. History Course and Exam Description* (CED) sparked significant public conversations among students, educators, historians, policymakers, and others about the teaching of U.S. history. The College Board gathered feedback over the past year — including through a public review period — and on July 30, 2015, released a new edition of the CED that includes improvement to the language and structure of the course. The College Board heard from, and engaged with, a wide range of stakeholders over the past year as part of our public review process. Teachers and historians, parents and students, and other concerned citizens and public officials from across the country all provided feedback. The College Board used the thoughtful feedback gathered to inform the 2015 edition. Every statement in the 2015 edition has been examined with great care based on the historical record and the principled feedback received over the past year.

**Major Changes in revised 2015 CED:** In response to feedback about the 2014 edition, the structure of the CED has been improved in the 2015 edition to better serve teachers as they move through the course. Key updates include:

- The concept outline has been reformatted to be easier for teachers to use. Learning objectives are now printed alongside the corresponding content in the outline, and more blank space makes it easier for teachers to write in examples of the historical individuals, events, topics, or sources they use in their classrooms.
- The 2015 edition streamlines and consolidates the learning objectives from 50 to just 19, making them broader in focus and ultimately more useful for teachers in structuring their courses.
- Content at all levels (Key Concept, Roman numeral, and A-B-C levels) has been refined and clarified. The degree of change varies across different components of the outline.
  - Statements are clearer and more historically precise, written with particular attention to clarity and balance.
  - Some key individuals (such as James Madison, Jane Addams, and Martin Luther King Jr.), documents (such as the Gettysburg Address and the Federalist Papers) are now explicitly mentioned, and key events (such as US role in WWI and WWII, the holocaust, sacrifices of men and women) are specifically identified
  - American national identity and unity, along with American ideals (such as liberty, republicanism, and democracy) are specifically mentioned
  - Seven Course themes are identified.
- A new section — AP U.S. History Instructional Approaches — provides recommendations and optional examples for teachers on how to implement the curriculum framework in practical ways in the classroom.
- Rubrics for the document-based question and long essay question have been updated in a new document. To align with the changes to the rubrics, minor adjustments have been made to the language of the historical thinking skills, which are now presented in an easier-to-read table layout.

**Impact on Instruction and Teachers:** Teachers will begin using the 2015 edition of the CED in their classrooms for the 2015-16 school year. The changes will not require AP U.S. History teachers to submit any new materials for the AP Course Audit. The

College Board will be updating existing AP Course Audit resources to ensure alignment with the new curriculum framework. In the meantime, new teachers who have not yet received AP Course Audit authorization can use the existing sample syllabi and any samples of evidence from the syllabus development guide to complete the AP Course Audit for 2015-16 authorization. Updated AP Course Audit resources will be available in advance of the 2016-17 school year. Existing AP Course Audit Authorized courses will continue to remain valid. A free print copy of the 2015 edition will be mailed to all AP U.S. History teachers this fall.

**The new 2015 *AP U.S. History Course and Exam Description* (CED) can be downloaded by going to this link:**  
<https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-us-history-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

**Other information related to the revisions can be reviewed by going to this link:**  
<https://advancesinap.collegeboard.org/english-history-and-social-science/us-history>