AP Summer Institute
AP European History
Chris Freiler

Institute Overview

This workshop will guide teachers through developing an AP curriculum, selecting appropriate resources, employing a variety of assessments, and preparing students for the AP exam. Finally, the workshop will address logistical concerns such as AP equity/access and new the European History course and exam.

Workshop Objectives

- become familiar with the curriculum framework and exam
- understand the structure and pacing of an AP curriculum
- learn methods of preparing students for a college-level curriculum
- understand the structure and grading of the Advanced Placement exam
- understand in greater the thematic areas of European History

Institute Preparation

Participants are encouraged to bring either hard copies or a flash drive (preferred) of any model lessons or materials for sharing with other participants.


For our content focus, we will encounter a variety of articles to deepen participant understanding of key interpretive issues across the course themes and key concepts. Prior to the institute, I will contact participants to share articles and other materials either via email or digital dropbox.
Institute Schedule

Day 1
- Introductions
- Presentation of participant issues/concerns
- AP Equity and access
- Selecting materials for an AP course
- Structuring an AP course—preparing for the course redesign
- Creating a unit of study
- Exploring the intellectual and cultural theme
- Read selected articles on various topics.

Day 2
- Discussion of articles
- A bird’s eye view of the scope of AP European History
- Teaching the historical thinking skills
- Preparing students for the test item types
- Exploring the social and economic themes
- Using primary sources
- Teaching and scoring DBQs
- Read selected articles on various topics.

Day 3
- Teaching essay writing
- Scoring LEQs
- Discussion of articles
- Using projects in the curriculum
- Conceptualizing units of study based on new curriculum
- Exploring the political and diplomatic theme
- Turning points in the course (periodization)
- Read selected articles on various topics

Day 4
- Discussion: legacies of the First World War
- Exploring the world interaction theme
- Reviewing and preparing for the exam
- Exercises in chronological thinking
- Develop units of study
- Sharing of lessons, best practices
Presenter Biography

Chris Freiler has taught Advanced Placement European History at Hinsdale Central High School in Hinsdale, IL, since 1993. Additionally, he has taught Philosophy since 2003, a course he proposed and developed. He has also served since 1997 as a reader, Table Leader, Question Leader, Exam Leader, and Assistant Chief Reader for the AP European History annual exam scoring. From 1998 to 2002, Chris served on the Test Development Committee (and later as an independent consultant) for AP European History, in the process acting as the primary author for three different document-based questions used on the national exam. Since 2006, Chris served on the College Board Commission to redesign European History and from 2010-14 as co-chair of the Curriculum Development and Assessment Committee. He has authored an AP European test preparation book, published by McGraw-Hill, entitled *AP Achiever: Advanced Placement Exam Preparation Guide for European History*. Chris recently completed an M.A. in Philosophy at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL, after having earned a B.A. from Northwestern University and M.A. from University of Virginia.

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