

United States History

“The truth is found when men are free to pursue it.” - FDR

Course Description

Through this course, students study the ideals, significant figures, and milestone events that shaped the United States of America from its beginnings through its rise to world power. This class requires students to analyze the causes and long-term effects of important historical events, including the formation of our system of government, and to connect these events to the American systems that affect their lives today. Students are encouraged to think critically about how America functions as a nation and how it relates to and influences other nations. Throughout the course, students read and view primary and secondary sources to learn multiple perspectives. This syllabus addresses both CPA and Honors course levels. Text and assessment complexity as well as the level of independence required for learning activities will vary based on the level of the course.

This course is directly aligned with the traits defined in the *Portrait of the Crusader*. Through the study of history, students observe the impacts of injustice and oppression versus justice and freedom, and they are encouraged to value and respect the rights and dignity of all people. This class encourages students to be inspired learners, faithful citizens, and honorable souls who respect the diverse people of these United States.

Assessment Practices

Student knowledge and skills are measured in a variety of ways throughout the course, which may include:

- Written assessments that include terminology, short answers, and constructed responses to assess content knowledge and make connections.
- Essays that ask students to research, analyze and respond with sound reasoning and insight.
- A project that may include a presentation or performative component.
- A creative connection assessment which asks students to put themselves into an historic situation and create a memoir, journal, or letters.
- A Socratic Seminar or other form of debate.

Essential Questions for the Course:

- Who were the indigenous peoples? How did their lives change through history?
- What role did geography play in the development of the nation?
- How did religion shape America? What is the role of religion in America today?
- How was the American government shaped? How does it continue to change?
- How was the economy of America shaped? How does it continue to change?
- What was the role of slavery in shaping the American economy and identity?
- How is America progressing as a nation of the people, by the people, and for the people?
- Does America have a dynamic national identity? What impacts this identity?
- How have wars impacted the course of America's future and identity? Why do we fight wars?
- What responsibilities come with being a world power?

Curriculum Framework

Colonial America (Topics 1 & 2)

Pacing: 5-10 Classes

Focus Questions:

- What forces and factors shaped the colonization of North America?
- How were the lives of people in New England different from their lives in Europe?
- What was the new American identity that began to form?
- What lasting impact did the French and Indian War have on America?

Concepts/Skills:

- Examine the lives of indigenous peoples before the Age of Exploration.
- Define “Gold, God, Glory” and analyze how these motives drove the Age of Exploration.
- Compare and contrast French, Spanish and English settlement patterns and behaviors.
- Examine the impact of conquest and settlement on the indigenous peoples and the land, including disease, slavery, the Encomienda system of Spain, and the Columbian Exchange.
- Analyze why the original colonies developed differently. Trace the development of regional economies. Determine why the middle colonies were the most diverse.
- Determine how the African slave trade was introduced into the colonies and how slavery changed the economy of the northern, middle and southern colonies.
- Trace the beginnings of self-governance in the colonies (Yearley in Jamestown, Mayflower Compact).
- Explain how the outcome of the French and Indian War impacted the colonies and Britain.

The American Revolution (Topic 3)

Pacing: 5-10 Classes

Focus Questions:

- What led the American colonists to consider rebellion?
- In what ways did European involvement in America lead to the Revolutionary War?
- How did the American colonists win the Revolution?

Concepts/Skills:

- Examine key events and figures that led to the Revolutionary War.
- Trace the growth of self-governance in the colonies. Analyze the impact of the Enlightenment on the formation of the republic and on the Declaration of Independence.
- Summarize the strengths/ weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation, including the impact of Shays Rebellion.
- Trace the process of compromise while drafting the Constitution, including the issues of federalism and slavery. Compare the Federalist and Anti Federalist positions.
- Explain the purpose and content of the Bill of Rights. Discuss why the phrase “all men are created equal,” is not in the document.
- Define the major Constitutional Principles: popular sovereignty, limited government, separation of power, Federalism, checks and balances, representative government.

A New Government (Topics 4 & 5)

Pacing: 5 - 10 Classes

Focus Questions:

- What problem led to the development of the Confederation?
- What were the main flaws in the Articles of Confederation? How did the new Constitution address these issues?
- What was the XYZ Affair and what were its implications for American foreign policy?

Concepts and Skills:

- Explain how the state's new constitutions reflected republican ideas.
- Describe the structure and powers of the national government under the Articles of Confederation.
- Analyze how tensions with foreign countries revealed the weaknesses of the U.S. government.
- Summarize the rival plans of the government proposed at the Constitutional Convention.
- Describe the compromises made in order to reach agreement on the Constitution.
- Understand the reasons leaders called for the Constitutional Convention.
- Analyze Hamilton's plans for the economy and the opposition to them.
- Explain how a two-party system emerged in the new nation.
- Describe American relations with Britain, France and Spain during this time period..

America Takes Shape (Topics 5 & 6)

Pacing: 5 - 10 Classes

Focus Questions:

- Why did the southern states overwhelmingly oppose Hamilton's plan to balance the national debt?
- How did the results of the War of 1812 affect American morale?
- What was the Monroe Doctrine and how did it affect U.S. foreign relations?

Concepts and Skills:

- Examine how Washington and Hamilton shaped the presidency and the national economy.
- Trace the development and platforms of the first two political parties.
- Summarize the Jefferson presidency, including Judicial Review and the Louisiana Purchase.
- Explain why the War of 1812 intensified sectionalism.
- Examine the purpose of the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and how this foreshadowed the Civil War.
- Summarize the purpose of the Monroe Doctrine.
- Evaluate the policies of Andrew Jackson, including those that forced Native Americans to leave their lands and the Trail of Tears. Determine financial motivations.
- Investigate westward expansion at this time and the concept of Manifest Destiny.
- Trace the causes and effects of educational reform and the Second Great Awakening.
- Explain how the Abolition Movement grew in America, including contributions of Fredrick Douglas, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Tubman, William Lloyd Garrison, Lucretia Mott, David Walker.

Causes and Effects of the Civil War (Topic 7)

Pacing: 5 - 10 Classes

Focus Questions:

- How did the Civil War change the nation?
- What were the primary differences between the northern and southern states?
- How did Lincoln's death affect the nation?

Concepts and Skills:

- Compare the viewpoints of Calhoun and Clay as representative of the larger slavery debate.
- Explain the impact of the Fugitive Slave Act, Popular Sovereignty, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and the Dred Scott Decision.
- Analyze the Lincoln and Douglas debates and Lincoln's journey to the presidency.
- Determine how the Civil War also reflected the struggle between federal and states' rights.
- Trace the process of state secession and the attack on Fort Sumter.
- Compare the Emancipation Proclamation with Jefferson Davis' response.
- Explain the role and impact of African Americans as Union soldiers during the Civil War.
- Analyze Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (1863).
- Determine why the Civil War is considered the deadliest war in American History.
- Analyze the impact of Lincoln's death and Johnson's presidency on the policies of Reconstruction.

Reconstruction (Topic 8)

Pacing: 5 - 10 Classes

Focus Questions:

- How did America grow into a world power?
- What rights did African Americans have during this time period?
- How did the southern states rebuild their governments, economies and social structures?

Content and Skills:

- Investigate the impact of *Plessy v Ferguson*.
- Compare the ideas of Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois.
- Contrast the varied plans for Reconstruction.
- Compare the institution of slavery with the black codes enacted under Johnson.
- Examine African American opportunities as sharecroppers or tenant farmers.
- Explain the purpose of the Civil Rights Act of 1875 and the 13th, 14th, 15th Amendments.
- Analyze how the purposes of this legislation were thwarted by literacy tests, grandfather clauses, poll taxes, voter registration requirements, Jim Crow Laws, and intimidation practices.

The Path to a World Power (Topic 9, 10, 11)

Pacing: 5 - 10 Classes

Focus Questions:

- Why did America fight in WWI and what was the aftermath?
Analyze the role of journalists and novelists during the Progressive Era.
- Why did farmers blame big business for their hardships?
- How did the Treaty of Paris and the Teller Amendment prove to be complicated for the U.S?

Concepts and Skills:

- Trace the transition from the Gilded Age to Progressive Era.
- Analyze the changing role of women, including their impact on settlement houses, consumer protection, child labor, and the rights of women and minorities.
- Examine the progress made in civil rights protections for ethnic and religious minorities.
- Describe the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt, including environmental preservation.
- Define imperialism and explain how America participated in territorial expansion and influence into Latin America and the Pacific, including the acquisition of Hawaii.
- Examine the causes and effects of the Spanish American War, including the Treaty of Paris.
- Explain the struggle for acquisition of the Philippines, guerilla warfare, and concentration camps.
- Examine what happened to Puerto Rico and Cuba after the war.
- Determine why the Spanish-American War defined the U.S as a world power.
- Explain America's growing foreign policy interactions with China and Latin America and Teddy Roosevelt's Big Stick policy. Examine the importance of the Panama Canal.
- Contrast the foreign policy approaches of Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson.

World War I and the 1920s (Topic 12)

Pacing: 5 - 10 Classes

Focus Questions:

- What was the attitude of Americans about World War I before America entered the war?
- What finally made America decide to enter the war?
- How did the war affect Americans on the homefront?
- What role did America play in post-war Europe?

Concepts and Skills:

- Trace how America entered WWI. Investigate the impact of technological innovations in weaponry; examine the realities of trench warfare. Explain the Selective Service Act.
- Explain how the role of the federal government changed during WWI.
- Analyze propaganda in America and overseas.
- Examine homefront life in America during WWI and how the war changed American society, including opportunities for women, the Great Migration and the 19th Amendment.
- Explain why the U.S. failed to ratify the Treaty of Versailles and its rejection of the League of Nations.
- Trace the end of WWI and the initial period of economic problems faced in America.
- Examine the economic growth of the 1920s, including the stock market. Explain how science, technology and free enterprise all contributed to the boost in economic development.
- Analyze the impact of Ford's mass production of the automobile, including residential patterns.
- Analyze the causes and effects of the Roaring Twenties, the Jazz Age, and the Harlem Renaissance.
- Analyze the causes and effects of Prohibition. Compare the intent of the amendment with the realities of life and the rise of organized crime.
- Explain America's new role as the largest creditor nation in the world.

The Great Depression (Topic 13)

Pacing: 5 - 10 Classes

Focus Questions:

- What caused the Great Depression?
- What was the impact of the Great Depression on America? What was the impact on the rest of the world?
- How did America make it through the Great Depression?

Concepts and Skills:

- Define the terms *speculation* and *buying on margin*; examine the stock market crash of 1929.
- Analyze the factors that contributed to depression in America, including the challenges faced by farmers, newly enacted tariffs, and the policies/decisions of Hoover.
- Explain life during the Great Depression in different areas of the nation. Trace unemployment.
- Investigate renewed discrimination practices towards African Americans, Hispanics, and women during the Depression.
- Examine the causes and effects of the Dust Bowl.
- Contrast supply-side and trickle-down economics.
- Explain FDR's New Deal: Recovery, Relief and Reform, including key programs put into place (FDIC, Social Security, CCC).
- Analyze how the New Deal changed the role of the federal government.

World War II (Topics 14)

Pacing: 5 - 10 Classes

Focus Questions:

- How did another World War happen? How well did America respond?
- Why did most Americans support isolationism at the beginning of the war?
- How was island hopping a great strategy in the Pacific?
- Analyze the effects of the war on Japanese American civil liberties.

Concepts and Skills:

- Explain the economic conditions that led to the rise of totalitarianism in Europe and Asia.
- Define totalitarianism, fascism, and nazism. Explain the rise of dictators in the Soviet Union, Italy, Germany and Japan.
- Determine how the Treaty of Versailles affected events that led to WWII.
- Summarize the American debate between interventionists and isolationists.
- Trace the escalation of the Holocaust and debate how the world allowed this genocide to occur. Examine why America did not accept Jewish refugees.
- Describe the events leading to the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entry into WWII.
- Describe America's campaigns in Europe, the Pacific, and North Africa.
- Analyze the role of women in the war effort both in the war and on the homefront. Examine what happened to women workers when the war was over.
- Analyze the use of Japanese internment camps in America and the subsequent treatment of those released from the camps.

- Analyze the decisions to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Debate whether the second bomb was necessary.
- Investigate the impacts of the atomic bomb on Japan's people and land.
- Explain the import of the war conferences: Tehran, Yalta, Potsdam.
- Analyze the long term impacts of WWII on America and on the world.
- Explain the formation and purpose of the United Nations.

The Cold War (Topics 15 & 17)

Pacing: 5 - 10 Classes

Focus Questions:

- How can a war be cold?
- How did the Cold War become a global conflict?
- What was Kennedy's approach that ended the Cuban Missile Crisis?
- How did the United States become involved in the Vietnam War

Concepts and Skills:

- Describe Stalin's actions after Yalta. Explain the significance of the Truman Doctrine, Kennan and containment, the Marshall Plan, the Berlin Airlift, and NATO.
- Analyze the impact of the Soviet Union's atomic bomb. Explain *arms race* and *deterrent*.
- Analyze the rise of Mao Zedong in China and Truman's decision to withhold support for Jiang.
- Analyze the purpose of proxy wars and the causes and effects of the Korean War.
- Examine the impact of the Eisenhower Doctrine and the use of the CIA covert operations.
- Investigate the Second Red Scare from the 1940s through the 1950s, especially McCarthyism.
- Explain the causes of postwar prosperity in the United States, including the GI Bill.
- Explain the issues that allowed Kennedy to win the 1960 election and his New Frontier economy.
- Examine Cold War events under Kennedy, including Bay of Pigs and Cuban Missile Crisis.
- Describe the space race and the impact it had on the American economy and education.
- Trace America's initial involvement in Vietnam.
- Investigate the impact of Kennedy's assassination on morale and the political landscape.
- Explain Johnson's Great Society Program.
- Trace the increased involvement in Vietnam. Analyze the Antiwar Movement, the impact of the 26th Amendment on the country, and Johnson's decision not to run for reelection.
- Trace the end of the war under Nixon.
- Debate the long lasting impacts of the Vietnam War on American people, national identity, and the returning soldiers, including Agent Orange and drug use. Analyze the treatment of the returning (drafted) soldiers by the American people.

The Push for Equality (Topics 16 & 18)

Pacing: 5 - 10 Classes

Focus Questions:

- How did America turn turmoil into progress?
- What impact did civil rights leaders have on the push for equality?
- How did segregation during this time affect the education system?
- Why was legislation's approach to end voter suppression and discriminatory employment a step

forward for equality?

- What can we learn from MLK's approach to equality that would benefit us today?

Content and Skills:

- Explain de facto segregation in all areas of the nation.
- Analyze the progress of the Civil Rights movement during the 1950s, including *Brown vs. Bd of Ed* and the conflict between federal and state power regarding education/desegregation in Little Rock.
- Trace the growth of the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960s, including the impact of Martin Luther King (MLK). Compare/contrast the vision of MLK with more assertive groups.
- Examine the impact of the Warren Court.
- Explain the purpose of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the 24th Amendment, Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.
- Analyze the struggles and progress of Latinos, Native Americans, and Asian Americans during the 50s and 60s.
- Examine the impact of the assassinations of MLK and Robert Kennedy on the Civil Rights Movement.
- Trace the growth and setbacks of the Women's Rights Movement during this time period.
- Analyze the impacts of gerrymandering and the issues that still exist.

Resources

- Textbook – Pearson US History (New Edition)
- An e-book is available and typically used.
- Additional resources will be selected to supplement the textbook and address current events

Grading

- 60% - Mastery - Summative assessments
- 20% - Formative assessments
- 10% - Student Preparation - homework
- 10% - Participation in class and group projects

See the "Absence Makeup Policy" in the Student Handbook.