

Comprehensive Modern U.S. History

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a full-year survey that provides students with a comprehensive view of American history from the first migrations of nomadic people to North America to recent events. Readings are drawn from K¹²'s The American Odyssey: A History of the United States. Online lessons help students organize their study, explore topics in depth, review in preparation for assessments, and practice skills of historical thinking and analysis. Activities include analyzing primary sources and maps, creating time lines, completing projects and written assignments, and conducting independent research.

PREREQUISITES: World History or Modern World Studies

COURSE LENGTH: Two Semesters

REQUIRED TEXT: The American Odyssey: A History of the United States

MATERIALS LIST: No required materials for this course

COURSE OUTLINE:

Semester 1

Unit 1: American Beginnings

- Semester Introduction
- Discuss: Getting to Know You
- Peopling the Americas
- First Americans
- The North American Continent
- Worlds Meet
- Pilgrims and Puritans in New England
- The Middle and Southern Colonies
- The Colonies Grow and Change
- New Ideas and Issues
- Looking at the Colonies

Unit 2: Formation of the United States

- Growing Tension
- Moving Toward Independence
- We Hold These Truths
- Revolution
- A Long War
- Discuss: George Washington's Leadership
- Governing a New Nation
- Seeking a More Perfect Union
- Ratification
- Your Constitution

Unit 3: The New Republic

- The New Republic
- The Washington Presidency
- A New Leader
- Discuss: The Alien and Sedition Acts
- Transfer of Power
- Exploring
- The War of 1812
- Nationalism: Culture and Economy
- Nationalism: Politics and the Judiciary
- Nationalism: Foreign Affairs
- Eventful Times

Unit 4: Change and Growth

- A Revolution in American Industry
- A Revolution in Transportation
- Going Places
- New Politics
- Discuss: Maintaining a Nation's Infrastructure
- Jackson's Presidency
- Legacies
- Northern Ways
- Southern Ways

- Comparing, Contrasting, Predicting

Unit 5: Forging a National Identity

- Seeking Perfection
- Freedom for All
- A New American Culture
- Reflections
- The Push West
- Texas: The Lone Star Republic
- Discuss: Wagons West
- War and Riches

Unit 6: The Union in Crisis

- Growing Apart
- Debate and Division
- Disunion
- The War Begins
- Discuss: Constitutional Rights
- Terrible Conflict
- War's End
- A War on All Fronts
- Reuniting a Nation
- Reconstructing a Nation

Unit 7: Entering the Modern Era

- Settling the American West
- The Changing West
- The End of a Way of Life
- New Industries Emerge
- Inventors and Industrialists
- How Big is Too Big?
- The Price of Industrialization
- Discuss: Immigrant Backgrounds
- Seeking a Better Way

- Beacon of Hope
- The Immigrant Experience

Unit 8: Semester Review and Test

Semester 2

Unit 1: Facing Crisis and War

- Semester Introduction
- Confronting the Crisis
- New Strategies
- Reflections
- Lasting Programs
- Discuss: Legacy of the New Deal
- War Clouds
- Going to War
- The War at Home
- Fighting on Two Fronts
- Horror Uncovered
- War's End

Unit 2: Postwar America

- A War of Words and Ideas
- Confronting Communism
- The Cold War Abroad
- Eisenhower at the Helm
- From War to Peace
- New Places to Live
- A New American Dream
- A New Frontier
- Your Magazine Project

Unit 3: Trauma at Home and Abroad

- The Beginning of Change
- Demanding Change
- How to Achieve Equality?

- I Have a Dream
- New Directions
- Other Paths
- Discuss: Nonviolent Resistance vs. Law and Order
- Crisis
- War in Vietnam
- Escalation
- A Different Kind of War
- Those Who Served
- Reflections on War

Unit 4: Turmoil

- Culture and Counterculture
- Tragedies
- Women on the Move
- Voices for Change
- Complex Times
- The Watergate Scandal
- Discuss: Impeachment
- Transition

Unit 5: Modern Turning Points

- The Research Project, Part 1
- The Research Project, Part 2
- The Research Project, Part 3
- The Research Project, Part 4
- A Changing Mood
- Reaganomics
- Cold War Warriors
- Discuss: The Collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union
- Legacies
- The Research Project, Part 5
- The Post-Cold War World, Part 1
- The Post-Cold War World, Part 2

- The Post-Cold War World, Part 3

Unit 6: Toward a New Millennium

- A New Age
- Demographics Close to Home
- Discuss: Immigration Trends
- The Clinton Years
- Divisions
- Looking at North America, Part 1
- Looking at North America, Part 2
- Looking at North America, Part 3
- Looking at North America, Part 4
- The Research Project, Part 6
- The Research Project, Part 7
- Challenges at Century's End
- Entering a New Millennium
- New Realities
- War and Disaster
- Looking Ahead

Unit 7: Semester Review and Test