

U.S. History- Block

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Students trace the history of the world from approximately 1870 to the present. They begin with a look back at events leading up to 1914, including the Second Industrial Revolution and the imperialism that accompanied it. Their focus then shifts to the contemporary era, including two world wars, the Great Depression, and global Cold War tensions. Students examine both the staggering problems and astounding accomplishments of the twentieth century, with a focus on political and social history. Students also explore topics in physical and human geography, and investigate issues of concern in the contemporary world. Online lessons help students organize study, explore topics, review in preparation for assessments, and practice skills of historical thinking and analysis. Activities include analyzing primary sources and maps, creating timelines, completing projects and written assignments, and conducting independent research.

PREREQUISITES: Middle school Intermediate World History A and B, or equivalent.

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: Setting the Stage—Before 1850

- Semester Introduction
- Early Seeds of Democracy
- Judeo-Christian Influences on Democratic Thought
- Expanding Rights in England
- Democratic Ideals Emerge
- Democratic Ideals Flourish
- Analyzing the Declaration of Independence
- A Revolution in Industry
- New Demands for Power

Unit 2: Europe and the Second Industrial Revolution

- The Challenges of Industrialization
- Solutions
- Classes
- Geography Plays a Part
- Industry and the Rise of Germany
- Germany Moves Ahead
- The Impact of the Second Industrial Revolution
- Germany Rising: A Review

Unit 3: The New Age in Asia

- The West Looks East
- Modernization and the Rise of Japan
- In East Asia
- Earthshaking
- Imperialism in Asia
- Strife in China
- Nationalism in China
- Where in the World

Unit 4: World War and Revolution

- Igniting the Powder Keg
- Europe Goes to War
- The War Goes On
- Total War
- A War for Minds and Hearts
- Propaganda
- Unrest in Russia
- From Russia to USSR
- Challenges of Geography
- War's Tide Turns
- War's End
- What Kind of Peace?

Unit 5: Between Wars

- The Art of Uncertainty
- Certainties Challenged
- A World in Flux
- Nationalism and Islamism in the Middle East
- Forging Nations in the Middle East
- Report from the Middle East
- Geography of Borders
- Desperate Times and Communism
- Desperate Times and Fascism
- Power Above All

Unit 6: Another World War

- The Road to War
- Global War
- Leadership
- Qualities of a Leader
- Strategies for Victory
- Horror
- Victory
- Difficult Decisions
- Graphing World War II Statistics
- Personal Views of War
- Putting It into Words
- Never Again
- A New Path
- A Woman for All Times

Unit 7: Significant Times

- Looking Back, Part 1
- Looking Back, Part 2
- Looking Back, Part 3
- Looking Back, Part 4
- Looking Back, Part 5

Unit 8: Semester Review and Test

Semester 2

Unit 1: A New Century

- Semester Introduction
- Cities Grow
- City Life
- Populists
- Progressives
- Taking on Power
- Less Than Equal
- Demanding a Voice
- Making a Difference

Unit 2: Turning Points

- Choosing a Research Topic
- Choosing a Presentation Format
- The Annotated Bibliography
- The Process Paper
- An American Empire
- Presidents and Policies
- The Great War
- The War at Home
- Assessing the Great War
- Embracing the Peace
- A New Culture
- Action and Reaction
- Analyzing an Era
- The Project

Unit 3: Democracy Tested

- The Bubble Bursts
- Depression

- Seeking Solutions
- Confronting the Crisis
- New Strategies
- Reflections
- War Clouds
- Going to War
- The War at Home
- Fighting on Two Fronts
- War's End

Unit 4: Postwar America

- A War of Words and Ideas
- The Cold War at Home and Abroad
- Eisenhower at the Helm
- From War to Peace
- A New American Dream
- The New Frontier
- Your Magazine Project
- The Beginning of Change
- Demanding Change
- A New Generation

Unit 5: A Time of Turmoil

- Crisis
- War in Vietnam
- Reflections on War
- Culture and Counterculture
- Tragedies
- Women on the Move
- Voices for Change
- Complex Times
- The Watergate Scandal
- Transition

Unit 6: Toward a New Millennium

- A Changing Mood
- Reaganomics
- Cold War Warriors
- Legacies
- The Post-Cold War World, Part 1
- A New Age
- The Clinton Years
- Divisions
- The Post Cold War World, Part 2
- Entering a New Millennium
- New Realities
- War and Disaster
- Looking Ahead

Unit 7: Semester Review and Test