

Honors Modern US History

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a challenging full-year survey that provides students with a comprehensive view of American history from the industrial revolution of the late nineteenth century to recent events. Readings are drawn from K¹²'s *The American Odyssey: A History of the United States*. Online lessons help students organize study, explore topics in depth, review in preparation for assessments, and practice advanced skills of historical thinking and analysis. Activities include analyzing primary sources and maps, creating timelines, completing projects and written assignments, and conducting independent research. Students complete independent projects each semester.

PREREQUISITES: Middle school American History Before 1865 and American History Since 1865, or equivalent, and teacher/school counselor recommendation.

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: Founding a Nation

- Semester Introduction
- The New England Colonies
- The Middle and Southern Colonies
- New Ideas
- The Road to Revolution
- Toward Independence
- Independence
- Governing the New Nation
- Creating a More Perfect Union
- Our Constitution

Unit 2: Defining a Nation

- Setting a Course
- Visions for a Nation
- Growing in Area
- Growing in Power
- New Politics
- Reforming
- Expanding
- Growing Apart
- Debate and Division
- Disunion
- Terrible War
- Reconstructing a Nation

Unit 3: Entering the Modern Era

- Settling the Great American West
- The Changing West
- The End of a Way of Life
- New Industries Emerge
- Meeting Challenges
- Inventors and Industrialists
- How Big is Too Big?
- The Price of Industrialization
- Seeking a Better Way
- What to Do?

Unit 4: A New Century

- Beacon of Hope
- The Immigrant Experience
- A Different Experience
- Cities Grow
- Urban Issues
- Cities Life
- Populists

- Progressives
- Confronting Reality
- Taking on Power
- The Power of One

Unit 5: New Directions

- Less Than Equal
- Different Visions
- Demanding a Voice
- An American Empire
- Presidents and Policies
- American Giant
- Shaping a Nation
- The Great War
- The War at Home
- Assessing the Great War

Unit 6: Turning Points

- Embracing the Peace
- A New Culture
- Action and Reaction
- The Harlem Renaissance
- Choosing a Research Project
- Choosing a Presentation Format
- The Annotated Bibliography
- The Process Paper
- Conducting Research
- Continuing Research
- Completing the Project
- The Bubble Bursts
- Depression
- Seeking Solutions

Unit 7: 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

Unit 8: Honors Project