Name of Course: U.S. History and Government

Course Overview:
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This course is typically taught to juniors at Wells High School and investigates the history and government of the United States. It allows students to recognize the events, individuals, and documents that caused the United States to function the way it presently does. Students will study cultural differences, geography, as well as political, social, and economic changes that have affected this nation. Primary Resource: The American Vision, Glencoe. * Alternative and Special Educations versions of this course are offered that incorporate appropriate modifications.

Unit of Study	Essential Question(s)	Content/Skill/Concept	Instructional Strategies
Creating a Nation: Beginnings to 1789	• Why do people migrate to new lands? • What causes people to rebel? • How are governments created?	• European exploration and colonization • Interaction with Native Americans including those in Maine • Early Maine Industries such as ship building and lumber. • Rebellion and The Declaration of Independence • Articles of Confederation • The Constitutional Convention • The Bill of Rights and the ratification of the Constitution • The structure of the Constitution	Homework: discussion of content Documentary: The Story of Us Supreme Court: case studies Primary Readings: questions and answers (oral and written) Current Events: readings and discussions
The Young Republic: 1789-1850	• Why do people form political parties? • Can economics shape politics? • Can average citizens change society? • Why did people migrate west?	• American presidents Washington through Polk • Articles of Confederation • Westward Expansion and Manifest Destiny • The War of 1812	Homework: discussion of content Documentary: The Story of Us Supreme Court: case studies Primary Readings: questions and answers (oral and written) Current Events: readings and discussions

		• The Mexican War • Formation of political parties • The North and the South • Jacksonian Democracy • Indian Removal	Mapwork: political Maine Supreme Court Session: analysis of three cases in preparation of Session
The Crisis of the Union: 1848-1877	• What keeps nations united? • How is modern warfare different? • How do nations recover from war?	• Sectionalism • Slavery • Differences of the North and South • The Civil War • Reconstruction	Homework: discussion of content Documentary: The Story of Us Supreme Court: case studies Primary Readings: questions and answers (oral and written) Current Events: readings and discussions Film: Civil War or Western (leading into next unit)
The Birth of Modern America: 1865-1890	• Why did settlers move West? • Did industry improve society? • Why do people migrate?	• Westward expansion • Industrialization • Urbanization • Immigration, including immigrant groups in Maine • The Gilded Age • Populism	Homework: discussion of content Documentary: The Story of Us Supreme Court: case studies Primary Readings: questions and answers (oral and written) Current Events: readings and discussions Mapwork: physical Introduction: Geography project #1
Imperialism and Progressivism: 1890-1920	• How are empires built? • Can politics fix social problems? • Why do nations go to war?	• United States Imperialism • The Progressives • Causes and impact of WWI at home and abroad	Homework: discussion of content Documentary: The Story of Us Supreme Court: case studies Primary Readings: questions and answers (oral and written) Current Events: readings and discussions
Boom and Bust: 1920-1941	• Why does culture change? • What causes depressions? • Can government fix the economy?	• Social, cultural, and political developments of the 1920s • The Great Depression • The New Deal	Homework: discussion of content Documentary: The Story of Us Supreme Court: case studies Primary Readings: questions and answers (oral and written) Current Events: readings and discussions
Global Struggles: 1931-1960	• Could WWII have been prevented? • What kind of sacrifices does war	• Causes and Impact of WWII • Causes and Impact of the Cold War	Homework: discussion of content Documentary: The Story of Us

	require? ● How did the Atom Bomb change the world?	● U.S. involvement in the Korean War	Supreme Court: case studies Primary Readings: questions and answers (oral and written) Current Events: readings and discussions Introduction: Leadership Paper Film: World War II or Cold War SAT: Frequent Reminders, vocabulary building.
A Time of Upheaval: 1954-1980	● Can government fix society? ● What causes societies to change? ● Should citizens support the government during wartime? ● Can protests bring change?	● McCarthyism ● The Great Society ● The Civil Rights Movement ● U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ● The Counterculture	Homework: discussion of content Documentary: The Story of Us Supreme Court: case studies Primary Readings: questions and answers (oral and written) Current Events: readings and discussions Geography: Thematic Maps Film (if not done during previous unit): Vietnam
A Changing Society: 1968-Present	What stops government abuse of power?	● The Watergate Scandal ● The Carter administration ● The Reagan administration and the end of the Cold War ● The Clinton Administration	Homework: discussion of content Documentary: The Story of Us Supreme Court: case studies Primary Readings: questions and answers (oral and written) Current Events: readings and discussions Geography project #2 Documentary: Modern World