



Course Syllabus

UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1929

Code:	470000	NCAA Approval:	Yes
Level:	High School	QM Certified:	No
Duration/Credit:	1.0 Credit/Year	Textbook:	None
Prerequisites:	None	Materials:	None
Standards:	US History Since 1929 Standards	Technology:	VA Technology Requirements
Pacing Guide	470000 United States History Pacing Guide 470000 United States History Pacing Guide	Alignment Matrix:	Alignment Matrix

Course Introduction

Watch the [course introduction video](#) or read the [video transcript](#) for a brief introduction to the course.

Course Description

United States History Since 1929 is a comprehensive course that explores the major political, economic, social, and cultural developments in the United States from the onset of the Great Depression to the present day. Students will examine key events, movements, and figures that have shaped the nation in the modern era. Topics covered include the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, civil rights struggles, societal changes, economic transformations, and contemporary challenges. By analyzing primary sources, evaluating historical interpretations, and engaging in critical thinking, students will develop a deeper understanding of the complexities and continuities of American history since 1929. The beginning of the course will consist of a review of America's beginnings from its earliest inhabitants to the Roaring 20's which will provide students with a foundational understanding of the nation's historical trajectory, setting the stage for deeper exploration of the major developments and challenges of the modern era. The desired outcome of this course is for students to develop an understanding of the cause-and-effect relationship between past and present events, recognize patterns of interactions, and understand the impact of events in the United States within an interconnected world.

Course Level Objectives

This course is defined and aligned by the Arkansas Social Studies Academic Standards for United States History Since 1929. Students will participate in a variety of tasks, which may include but are not limited to the following types of activities: listening, speaking, reading, writing, performance-based, and Project-based. In addition, students will interact with a variety of primary and secondary sources relative to the topics for each module.

The objectives for this course include the following:



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- Describe how the lifestyles and civilizations of indigenous inhabitants shaped the Americas before European arrival.
- Understand the interactions between ancient American civilizations and European explorers and analyze the impact of European exploration on Native American societies.
- Explore the motivations behind European exploration and the key explorers and expeditions that shaped early encounters between European explorers and indigenous peoples
- Examine the establishment of the Thirteen Colonies and analyze colonial life, society, and economic systems such as mercantilism and the African slave trade.
- Investigate religious and political dissent in the colonies and explore the causes and consequences of the French and Indian War.
- Analyze the causes of the American Revolution, major battles, and turning points of the war, and examine the roles of key figures such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson in the fight for independence.
- Examine the drafting and adoption of the Declaration of Independence
- Evaluate the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and the debates surrounding the creation and ratification of the United States Constitution.
- Understand the significance of the Bill of Rights and its role in the evolution of the Constitution, and analyze the challenges and triumphs of the Revolutionary War.
- Assess the leadership of George Washington as the first President of the United States and his role in launching the new nation under the Constitution.
- Analyze the significance of the Louisiana Purchase in shaping the territorial expansion of the United States
- Analyze the motivations that drove American settlers westward during the 19th century, including economic opportunities, religious and ideological motivations, and the influence of Manifest Destiny.
- Examine the conflicts and negotiations with indigenous peoples that occurred as a result of westward expansion, including the impacts of treaty-making, broken promises, and the Indian Removal Act, such as the Trail of Tears.
- Identify the factors dividing the nation leading to the outbreak of the Civil War.
- Examine the progression of the Civil War.
- Assess the successes and failures of Reconstruction.
- Examine the closing of the frontier and settlement of the West and determine the impact it had on indigenous communities.
- Explore the expansion of industries such as steel and textiles during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and analyze their impact on American society, economy, and labor conditions.
- Investigate the factors driving immigration to the United States, including economic, social, and political motivations, and assess the opportunities and challenges faced by immigrants upon arrival.
- Identify the factors contributing to the rise of urban areas, examine the living conditions in urban slums, and evaluate the challenges faced by urban immigrants, including housing and sanitation issues..
- Explore the origins of Progressivism and describe legislative acts and amendments aimed at addressing social, economic, and political issues, such as women's suffrage and the Pure Food and Drug Act.
- Students will Investigate the acquisition of Alaska and Hawaii, the Spanish-American War, and the construction of the Panama Canal, and assess the motivations and consequences of America's expansionist policies.
- Students will analyze the factors contributing to the outbreak of World War I



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- Students will investigate the reasons for America's entry into the war and analyze the impact of their involvement in World War I.
- Students will explore the cultural and societal changes of the Roaring 20's
- Identify the causes and effects of the Great Depression.
- Evaluate the government's initial response to the onset of the Great Depression
- Determine hardships people faced during the Great Depression.
- Examine the impact of the Great Depression on different sectors of society, including farmers, urban workers, minorities, and women.
- Compare and contrast the approaches of different New Deal programs, such as relief, recovery, and reform.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs in addressing the challenges of the Great Depression.
- Explore the debates surrounding the New Deal, including criticisms from both the political left and right.
- Examine the long-term effects of the New Deal on American society, politics, and the economy.
- Students will identify the causes of World War II.
- Students will explore the impact of World War II in Europe and the home front.
- Students will investigate key events of the Holocaust, including Kristallnacht, the establishment of ghettos, and the implementation of the Final Solution.
- Students will analyze America's path towards involvement in World War II and examine major battles and campaigns America was a part of.
- Students will examine life on the homefront during World War II including social and economic changes that took place
- Students will analyze the conclusion of World War II and its aftermath.
- Students will understand how the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union emerged after World War II, examining key events, ideologies, and strategies that defined the Cold War era.
- Students will investigate the division of Korea after World War II and the outbreak of the Korean War in the context of the Cold War
- Students will investigate the evolution of U.S. foreign policy during the early Cold War period, including containment policies, military alliances like NATO, and interventions taken across the world to prevent the spread of communism
- Students will explore domestic challenges faced by the United States during this period, including, the Red Scare, living in the Nuclear Age, and the Civil Rights Movement, examining struggles for equality and social justice amidst Cold War tensions.
- Students will analyze the economic boom and social changes in postwar America, including the rise of consumer culture, suburbanization, and the impact of technological advancements like the television and automobile.
- Understand the historical context and societal factors that gave rise to the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.
- Identify and analyze the key events, pivotal moments, and milestones of the Civil Rights Movement, including significant legal rulings and legislative actions.
- Examine the diverse strategies and tactics employed by civil rights activists and organizations, such as nonviolent protests, legal challenges, and grassroots mobilization.
- Explore the roles and contributions of influential figures and leaders within the Civil Rights Movement, including their impact on shaping national discourse and policy.
- Evaluate the legal breakthroughs achieved during the Civil Rights Movement



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- Describe the major elements of President John F. Kennedy's New Frontier agenda, including economic and social reforms, civil rights advancements, space exploration efforts, and international programs.
- Assess the significance of Kennedy's economic and social reforms, such as tax cuts and social programs, and analyze their intended and actual effects on American society and the economy.
- Reflect upon the legacy of the New Frontier, including how Kennedy's policies influenced future U.S. domestic and foreign policies and their enduring relevance.
- Analyze the key events of John F. Kennedy's presidency in relation to the Cold War, including the Bay of Pigs invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the construction of the Berlin Wall.
- Evaluate Kennedy's foreign policy strategies and decisions and how they impacted U.S. relations with the Soviet Union.
- Identify and evaluate the key components of Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the Office of Economic Opportunity.
- Describe the significance of key legislative acts such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965, the Water Quality Act of 1965, and the Air Quality Act of 1967.
- Analyze how the Vietnam War influenced Johnson's domestic agenda and public perception of his presidency.
- Examine the events surrounding the Gulf of Tonkin incident and understand how the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution granted President Lyndon B. Johnson broad powers to escalate U.S. military involvement in Vietnam.
- Evaluate the political, social, and strategic factors that contributed to the decision to escalate U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, including Cold War tensions, domestic pressures, and the role of key policymakers.
- Assess the consequences of the escalation of the Vietnam War on American society, including public opinion, the anti-war movement, and the implications for U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War era.
- Explore how the Vietnam War influenced American society, including changes in public opinion, protests, and the counterculture movement.
- Investigate how the Vietnam War contributed to a divide in American society and analyze the role of activism and civic engagement during the era.
- Reflect on the lasting legacy of the Vietnam War, including its influence on subsequent U.S. foreign policy, military interventions, and public attitudes towards war and government transparency.
- Identify and evaluate the major domestic initiatives and foreign policy strategies implemented during Nixon's administration, including the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the opening of diplomatic relations with China, and the policy of détente with the Soviet Union.
- Examine the Causes and Consequences of the Watergate Scandal
- Assess Nixon's overall legacy by weighing his significant achievements against the profound controversies, particularly the Watergate scandal.
- Evaluate the reasons behind President Ford's decision to pardon Richard Nixon, the controversy it generated, and its implications on public trust and Ford's political career.
- Examine the economic conditions during Ford's presidency, including inflation, unemployment, and the recession.
- Explore President Ford's foreign policy initiatives, including the continuation of détente with the Soviet Union, the Helsinki Accords, and the challenges faced in Southeast Asia. [



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- Investigate the major domestic issues faced during Carter's presidency, such as economic difficulties and energy crises.
- Evaluate the key components and economic impact of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, understanding how Reagan's tax policies aimed to stimulate economic growth and the resulting short-term and long-term effects on the U.S. economy.
- Investigate Reagan's foreign policy initiatives, including the Strategic Defense Initiative, military build-up, and negotiations with the Soviet Union, and assess how these actions contributed to the decline of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.
- Assess the major controversies during Reagan's administration, such as the Iran-Contra Affair, and determine his overall legacy.
- Analyze the key foreign policy achievements of George H.W. Bush's presidency, including the end of the Cold War, the reunification of Germany, and the Persian Gulf War.
- Examine the domestic challenges faced by George H.W. Bush, including economic recession, the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the controversy over tax policies.
- Evaluate the legacy of George H.W. Bush, focusing on how his presidency is remembered in terms of leadership style, achievements, and controversies.
- Understand the key domestic policies implemented during Bill Clinton's presidency, such as welfare reform, economic initiatives, and healthcare reform, and analyze their impact on American society and the economy.
- Examine Bill Clinton's approach to international relations, focusing on his efforts in conflict resolution, NATO expansion, and promoting global trade agreements.
- Analyze the controversies and challenges faced by the Clinton administration, including the Monica Lewinsky scandal and impeachment proceedings, and discuss their implications for presidential authority, public perception, and the political landscape of the 1990s.
- Explain the key events of September 11, 2001, including the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, as well as the crash of United Flight 93.
- Analyze how the September 11 attacks led to significant changes in U.S. national security policies, including the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and the implementation of the Patriot Act.
- Evaluate the cultural and social impact of September 11, including changes in American attitudes towards terrorism.
- Investigate the economic impact of the attacks, such as the immediate effects on the financial markets, the cost of rebuilding, and the long-term economic implications for the U.S. and the world.
- Assess how September 11 was covered by the media, including the role of news outlets in shaping public perception and the influence of media coverage on national and global views of terrorism.
- Explore personal narratives and case studies of individuals directly affected by the attacks, including first responders, survivors, and families of victims, to gain a deeper understanding of the human dimension of the tragedy.
- Analyze the political responses to the attacks, including the decision to invade Afghanistan and Iraq, and evaluate the long-term consequences of these actions on U.S. foreign policy.
- Reflect on the lessons learned from September 11 and the ways in which the events have been memorialized through monuments, museums, and annual remembrances, and discuss their significance in contemporary society.
- Analyze the conclusion of the War on Terror, including the withdrawal from Afghanistan and its implications for U.S. foreign policy, national security, and international relations.



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- Examine the causes and consequences of economic inequality in contemporary America, including the role of income disparity, wealth distribution, and policies affecting economic opportunity.
- Explore recent shifts in the U.S. labor market, such as the impact of automation, and changes in workforce demands, and assess their effects on employment and job security.
- Evaluate current challenges facing the U.S. healthcare system, including issues related to access, affordability, and quality of care, and discuss potential reforms and solutions.
- Investigate how public health responses to recent crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have shaped policies and practices, and analyze lessons learned for future public health preparedness.
- Analyze the impact of emerging technologies and innovations on various aspects of American life, including changes in communication, privacy concerns, and the economy.
- Assess the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation, including recent policy responses and their effectiveness in addressing environmental issues.
- Explore contemporary social movements and forms of activism, such as those addressing racial justice, gender equality, and climate action, and evaluate their influence on public policy and societal change.
- Consider potential future directions for American society, including possible solutions to current challenges, emerging trends, and the role of innovation and policy in shaping the nation's trajectory.

Course Participation Information

There are other pieces of important information about your participation in a Virtual Arkansas course. This information can be found in your course in the Virtual Arkansas Program Syllabus.