

US HISTORY, SEMESTER B

COURSE OVERVIEW

U.S. History traces the nation's history from the pre-colonial period to the present. Students learn about the Native American, European, and African people who lived in America before it became the United States. They examine the beliefs and philosophies that informed the American Revolution and the subsequent formation of the government and political system. Students investigate the economic, cultural, and social motives for the nation's expansion, as well as the conflicting notions of liberty that eventually resulted in civil war. The course describes the emergence of the United States as an industrial nation and then focuses on its role in modern world affairs.

Moving into the 20th and 21st centuries, students probe the economic and diplomatic interactions between the United States and other world players while investigating how the world wars, the Cold War, and the “information revolution” affected the lives of ordinary Americans. Woven through this chronological sequence is a strong focus on the changing conditions of women, African Americans, and other minority groups.

The course emphasizes the development of historical analysis skills such as comparing and contrasting, differentiating between facts and interpretations, considering multiple perspectives, and analyzing cause-and-effect relationships. These skills are applied to text interpretation and in written assignments that guide learners step-by-step through problem-solving activities.

This course is built to state standards and informed by the National Council for History Education, the National Center for History in the Schools, and the National Council for the Social Studies.

COURSE COMPONENTS AND GRADING RUBRIC

The table gives a breakdown of the weight for each component in the course. Weight represents the percentage of the total score coming from each activity.

Course Components	Count	Weight
Pretest. <i>A pretest is an optional assessment, typically designed for credit recovery. If a student shows mastery of a lesson objective, the student may be automatically exempted from the upcoming activities associated with the mastered objective. Each passing pretest grade is entered into the gradebook.</i>	5	0%
Practice. <i>A practice activity provides instruction similar to that found in a study so that students can practice or review skills necessary to complete their assignment with mastery.</i>	7	15%

Course Components	Count	Weight
Discussion. A discussion activity is an opportunity for students to collaborate with their peers. This activity gives students the opportunity to practice speaking and listening in a clear and logical manner and to receive feedback from peers.	2	5%
Journal. A journal is a short reflective writing exercise that encourages students to connect historical events and ideas to their own lives and circumstances.	3	5%
Mastery Test. A mastery test is a computer-scored lesson-level summative assessment.	36	35%
Posttest. A posttest appears at the end of each unit.	5	15%
End-of-Semester Test. An end-of-semester test (EOS) appears at the end of each course.	1	5%
Teacher-Graded Posttest. A posttest that prompts students for written responses appears at the end of each unit.	5	15%
Teacher-Graded End-of-Semester Test. An end-of-semester test (EOS) that prompts students for written responses appears at the end of each course.	1	5%
Total	60	100%

*Teachers may manually adjust these weights if desired, per district grading requirements.

UNIT 1: THE PROGRESSIVE ERA THROUGH THE ROARING '20S (1900 - 1929)

Lesson and Duration	Description
Pretest: The Progressive Era Through the Roaring '20s (1900 - 1929) 40 minutes	Complete the pretest (optional).
The Progressive Era Through the Roaring '20s (1900 - 1929): Unit Overview 1 minute	Read the unit overview.
LESSON 1 Skills for U.S. History II: Lesson Overview 5 minutes	Read the lesson objectives.
Skills for U.S. History: Checkup 30 minutes	Learn skills for studying U.S. history.

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Lesson and Duration	Description
Understanding Causation and Argumentation in U.S. History: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn how historians use the skills of causation and argumentation to better understand the past.
Understanding Causation and Argumentation in U.S. History: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Chronological Thinking: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn how and why historians put historical events in chronological order.
Chronological Thinking: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
LESSON 2 The Progressive Age: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
The Push for Reform: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about challenges and efforts to improve social conditions during the Progressive era.
The Push for Reform: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Progressive Developments: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the efforts of Progressive era reformers.
Progressive Developments: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Continuing Inequality and the Great Migration: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the work of Black leaders to address civil rights issues during the Progressive era. Learn about the effect of the Great Migration on the United States.

Lesson and Duration	Description
Continuing Inequality and the Great Migration: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Prepare to Discuss: Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois <i>5 minutes</i>	Prepare for a discussion.
Discuss: Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois <i>30 minutes</i>	Discuss the civil rights strategies of Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois.
LESSON 3 World War I: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
World War I and Its Aftermath: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about World War I, including its causes, lasting impacts, and U.S. involvement in the war.
World War I and Its Aftermath: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Propaganda of the Great War: Read <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine examples of World War I propaganda.
Practice: Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points <i>1 hour</i>	Analyze Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points.
LESSON 4 The Roaring '20s: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
Political and Economic Developments of the 1920s: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the political and economic developments in the United States during the 1920s.

Lesson and Duration	Description
Political and Economic Developments of the 1920s: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Cultural Developments of the 1920s: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the cultural developments in the United States during the 1920s.
Cultural Developments of the 1920s: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
The Harlem Renaissance: Read <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine works produced during the Harlem Renaissance and their impact on American culture.
UNIT 1 WRAP-UP The Progressive Era Through the Roaring '20s (1900 - 1929): Review <i>30 minutes</i>	Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Posttest: The Progressive Era Through the Roaring '20s (1900 - 1929) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Teacher-Graded Posttest: The Progressive Era Through the Roaring '20s (1900 - 1929) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

UNIT 2: THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND WORLD WAR II (1929 - 1945)

Lesson and Duration	Description
Pretest: The Great Depression and World War II (1929 - 1945): <i>40 minutes</i>	Complete the pretest (optional).
The Great Depression and World War II (1929 - 1945): Unit Overview <i>1 minute</i>	Read the unit overview.

Lesson and Duration	Description
LESSON 1	
The Great Depression: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
The Depression Begins: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the causes and effects of the Great Depression in the United States.
The Depression Begins: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Experiences of the Great Depression: Read <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine sources revealing the personal experiences of Americans who lived through the Great Depression.
The New Deal: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the elements of the New Deal, as well as its impact and legacy.
The New Deal: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Prepare to Discuss: The Role of the Government <i>5 minutes</i>	Prepare for a discussion.
Discuss: The Role of the Government <i>30 minutes</i>	Discuss the role of the federal government during an economic crisis.
LESSON 2	
World War II: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
World War II Begins: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the causes and early events of World War II, up to U.S. involvement in the war.
World War II Begins: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
The War at Home: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the impact of World War II in the United States, including the contributions of women and people of color.

Lesson and Duration	Description
The War at Home: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Practice: Women and the War Effort <i>1 hour</i>	Analyze the contributions of women during World War II.
LESSON 3 Defeating the Axis Powers: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
Allied Victory: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about events in World War II from U.S. involvement through the end of the war in both Europe and the Pacific theater.
Allied Victory: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
The Human Cost of World War II: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the human and environmental costs of World War II, including the Holocaust and other human rights violations.
The Human Cost of World War II: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Journal: How Did the Holocaust Occur? <i>30 minutes</i>	Reflect on the events and policies of the Holocaust.
UNIT 2 WRAP-UP The Great Depression and World War II (1929 - 1945): Review <i>30 minutes</i>	Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Posttest: The Great Depression and World War II (1929 - 1945) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Lesson and Duration	Description
Teacher-Graded Posttest: The Great Depression and World War II (1929 - 1945) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

UNIT 3: THE POSTWAR YEARS TO THE COLD WAR (1945 - 1969)

Lesson and Duration	Description
Pretest: The Postwar Years to the Cold War (1945 - 1969) <i>40 minutes</i>	Complete the pretest (optional).
The Postwar Years to the Cold War (1945 - 1969): Unit Overview <i>1 minute</i>	Read the unit overview.
LESSON 1 The Postwar Years: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
The Beginning of the Cold War: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about developments in the Cold War from the late 1940s through the early 1960s.
The Beginning of the Cold War: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Practice: Cold War Propaganda <i>1 hour</i>	Analyze examples of U.S. propaganda created during the Cold War.
Postwar Life in America: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about life in the United States after the end of World War II and through the early years of the Cold War.
Postwar Life in America: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Lesson and Duration	Description
LESSON 2 Fighting for Equality: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
The Civil Rights Movement: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the civil rights movement during the 1960s.
The Civil Rights Movement: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Speeches of the Civil Rights Movements: Read <i>45 minutes</i>	Examine writings by Martin Luther King Jr., including “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” and his “I Have a Dream” speech.
Expanding the Fight for Civil Rights: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about several groups’ fight for civil rights, including Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, Indigenous peoples, and the LGBTQIA+ community.
Expanding the Fight for Civil Rights: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
The Women’s Rights Movement: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the women’s rights movement that began in the early 1960s.
The Women’s Rights Movement: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
LESSON 3 The Cold War and Societal Developments: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
The Deepening Cold War: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about Cold War events and policies during the 1960s, including those that led to U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

Lesson and Duration	Description
The Deepening Cold War: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
The Great Society: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about social programs that were created under President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society.
The Great Society: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Social Developments: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about cultural developments in the United States during the 1960s.
Social Developments: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Practice: The Counterculture <i>1 hour</i>	Analyze the influence of counterculture beliefs on U.S. culture and politics during the 1960s.
UNIT 3 WRAP-UP	
The Postwar Years to the Cold War (1945 - 1969): Review <i>30 minutes</i>	Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Posttest: The Postwar Years to the Cold War (1945 - 1969) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Teacher-Graded Posttest: The Postwar Years to the Cold War (1945 - 1969) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

UNIT 4: THE END OF THE COLD WAR (1969 - 1991)

Lesson and Duration	Description
Pretest: The End of the Cold War (1969 - 1991) <i>40 minutes</i>	Complete the pretest (optional).

Lesson and Duration	Description
The End of the Cold War (1969 - 1991): Unit Overview <i>1 minute</i>	Read the unit overview.
LESSON 1 U.S. Politics and Changes in the Cold War: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
Political Developments of the 1970s: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about political developments of the 1970s, including the presidency of Richard Nixon and the conclusion of the Vietnam War.
Political Developments of the 1970s: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Practice: The Nixon Resignation <i>1 hour</i>	Identify factors that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1972.
Changes in World Affairs: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the domestic and foreign policies of President Jimmy Carter.
Changes in World Affairs: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
LESSON 2 The United States in the 1980s: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
The Reagan Years: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the presidency of Ronald Reagan.
The Reagan Years: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Practice: The Changing Role of the Government <i>1 hour</i>	Compare the policies of Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Ronald Reagan.

Lesson and Duration	Description
Expanding the Battle for Civil Rights: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the challenges many communities faced during the 1980s.
Expanding the Battle for Civil Rights: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
LESSON 3 Ending the Cold War: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
The Cold War in the 1980s: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the effect of President Ronald Reagan's Cold War policies during the 1980s.
The Cold War in the 1980s: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
The End of the Cold War: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about events that led to the end of the Cold War, including the collapse of the Soviet Union.
The End of the Cold War: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
UNIT 4 WRAP-UP The End of the Cold War (1969 - 1991): Review <i>30 minutes</i>	Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Posttest: The End of the Cold War (1969 - 1991) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Teacher-Graded Posttest: The End of the Cold War (1969 - 1991) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

UNIT 5: THE UNITED STATES IN THE CONTEMPORARY AGE (1991 - PRESENT)

Lesson and Duration	Description
Pretest: The United States in the Contemporary Age (1991 - Present) <i>40 minutes</i>	Complete the pretest (optional).
The United States in the Contemporary Age (1991 - Present): Unit Overview <i>1 minute</i>	Read the unit overview.
LESSON 1 The United States after the Cold War: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
The U.S. and Global Changes: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about U.S. foreign policy during the 1990s, including the role of the United States in global conflicts.
The U.S. and Global Changes: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Domestic Policy of the 1990s: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the domestic policies of the George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton administrations during the 1990s.
Domestic Policy of the 1990s: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Journal: The Birth of the Internet <i>30 minutes</i>	Reflect on the internet, including its impact on technology and culture in the United States.
LESSON 2 The United States Enters the New Millennium: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.

Lesson and Duration	Description
The War on Terror Begins: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about events of the first decade of the 21st century, including the 2000 presidential election and the September 11 attacks.
The War on Terror Begins: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Domestic Challenges and the Great Recession: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the domestic policies and events of the George W. Bush administration, including the Great Recession of 2008.
Domestic Challenges and the Great Recession: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Practice: The United States and Globalization <i>1 hour</i>	Analyze the effects of globalization on the United States.
Developments in the New Millennium: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about scientific and technological developments of the late 1990s and early 2000s and their influence on U.S. society and culture.
Developments in the New Millennium: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
LESSON 3 The Contemporary United States: Lesson Overview <i>5 minutes</i>	Read the lesson objectives.
The Obama Years: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the foreign and domestic policies of President Barack Obama.
The Obama Years: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Contemporary U.S. Developments: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about events surrounding the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, as well as the foreign and domestic policies of Presidents Donald Trump and Joseph Biden.

Lesson and Duration	Description
Contemporary U.S. Developments: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Continuing the Fight for Equality: Study <i>45 minutes</i>	Learn about the continued fight for equality during the Donald Trump and Joseph Biden administrations.
Continuing the Fight for Equality: Mastery Test <i>20 minutes</i>	Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Journal: The Future of the United States <i>30 minutes</i>	Reflect on themes that have characterized the United States since the 1900s.
UNIT 5 WRAP-UP The United States in the Contemporary Age (1991 - Present): Review <i>30 minutes</i>	Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Posttest: The United States in the Contemporary Age (1991 - Present) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Teacher-Graded Posttest: The United States in the Contemporary Age (1991 - Present) <i>40 minutes</i>	Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

SEMESTER WRAP-UP

Lesson and Duration	Description
Semester Review: Review <i>30 minutes</i>	Prepare for the final exam by reviewing key concepts and skills you have learned in this course.
End-of-Semester Test: Semester Exam <i>50 minutes</i>	Take a computer-scored exam to assess what you have learned in this course.

Lesson and Duration	Description
Teacher-Graded End-of-Semester Test: Semester Exam <i>50 minutes</i>	Take a teacher-scored exam to assess what you have learned in this course.