

US History 1870-Present

Course Description:

Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of the significant themes that contributed to the formation of the United States through research, discussion, simulation, debate, and presentation. Students will use their understanding to cite evidence of those themes in contemporary issues facing our society. Themes will include the evolution of American political democracy, cultural pluralism, economic and social equality, and America's development as a major world power. Students will explore and appreciate the diversity of the American experience and the relevance of our nation's past to all individuals living in today's society.

Grade Level: 10th Grade

Curriculum Work So Far:

1. Analyzed survey responses from all KHS social studies teachers and 200 students.
2. Examined curricula and resources used by neighboring school districts.
3. Discussed content that overlaps with World History to improve alignment and reduce repeated content in these courses.
4. Drafted a curricular scope & sequence of 10 units for the year.
 - Unit 0:** American Ideals and Introduction to the Research Process
 - Unit 1:** Reconstruction and Life in the "New South" 1865-1920
 - Unit 2:** Gilded Age and Progressive Era 1870-1920
 - Unit 3:** American Expansion and Imperialism 1870-1912
 - Unit 4:** World War I and the 1920s 1913-1929
 - Unit 5:** The Great Depression and World War II Eras 1929-1945
 - Unit 6:** Early Cold War America 1945-1963
 - Unit 7:** Civil Rights Movements 1954-Present
 - Unit 8:** Vietnam War 1954-1975
 - Unit 9:** Watergate to Present Day 1972-Present
5. Developed enduring understandings, essential questions, and student learning goals in alignment with the Missouri Learning Standards. The enduring understandings and essential questions that drive the course are listed below.

Course Enduring Understandings:

- Crafting a historical argument necessitates thorough research to gather relevant primary and secondary sources. Historians must critically evaluate the credibility, context, and biases of these sources to build a solid foundation of evidence for their argument.
- United States History highlights the complex, dynamic, and sometimes contradictory nature of American ideals, which play a central role in shaping the nation's history, society, and culture; underscoring the ongoing conversation about what it means to be American.

Course Essential Questions:

- How did industrialization, environmental challenges, and technological advancements shape the US?
- How did the United States navigate its role in global conflicts and standing in the world and how has it changed over time?
- How has the movement of people from different backgrounds helped to create and shape the American identity, while also challenging and testing the ideals of civil rights and equality?

Student Learning Overview:

- All units teach historical content through the lens of developing Social Science Inquiry skills outlined by the Missouri Priority Standards. Additionally, each unit is organized around 5 strands: History: Continuity and Change, Government Systems and Principles, Geographical Study, Economic Concepts, & People, Groups, and Cultures.