US History, Part 1
Course Outline & Objectives

Course Description:

United States History, Part 1 examines the transformation of the United States from the end of the Civil War through the conclusion of World War II. Students investigate Reconstruction, industrialization, immigration, reform movements, American expansion overseas, the World Wars, the Holocaust, and the social, political, and economic forces that reshaped the nation during this period. Throughout the course, students analyze historical evidence, evaluate multiple perspectives, and examine how the actions, ideas, and conflicts of the past continue to influence American society and its role in the world today.

Credits - One Semester (0.5 Carnegie unit / CA: 5 credits)

Course Outline

Unit 1: Reconstruction and the Foundations of Modern America

1.1 The End of the Civil War and Constitutional Amendments
1.2 Reconstruction Policies, Resistance, and Federal Authority
1.3 The Compromise of 1877 and the End of Reconstruction
1.4 Jim Crow, Segregation, and the Struggle for Equal Rights
1.5 Early Industrial Growth and the Railroad Revolution

Unit 2: Industrialization, Immigration, and Urbanization

2.1 Big Business and Industrial Expansion
2.2 Labor Unions and Worker Resistance
2.3 Immigration, Urbanization, and City Life
2.4 Political Machines and Gilded Age Corruption
2.5 Wealth, Inequality, and the Populist Movement

California Standards
Nevada Academic Content Standards for Social Studies

In Unit 1, students will:

Explain how the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments changed the meaning of freedom and citizenship after the Civil War.
Describe the successes and failures of Reconstruction, including Black political gains and the violent resistance that undermined them.
Analyze why Reconstruction ended and what it meant for Black Americans when the federal government withdrew from the South.
Identify how Jim Crow laws and the *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling built a legal system of racial segregation after Reconstruction.
Explain how rapid industrial growth during the Gilded Age created new economic opportunities and new forms of inequality.

California: 11.2.1–11.2.4, 11.3.1
Nevada: SS.9-12.US.14, 15, 16, 18, 24, 26, 27, 30

In Unit 2, students will:

Explain how the Progressive movement addressed industrialization, political corruption, and social inequality.
Describe the role of women in the Progressive Era, including suffrage and the 19th Amendment.
Analyze how the federal government expanded its role in regulating business and protecting the public.
Identify the causes and consequences of U.S. imperialism, including the Spanish-American War.
Evaluate the limits of the Progressive movement, including who it helped, who it excluded, and what this reveals about reform in a democracy.

California: 11.2.2–11.2.9
Nevada: SS.9-12.US.15, 18, 21, 22, 26, 28, 31

Course Outline

California Standards
Nevada Academic Content Standards for Social Studies

Unit 3: Reform, Progressivism, and American Expansion

3.1 The Progressive Movement and Social Reform
3.2 Women's Suffrage and Expanding Democracy
3.3 Government Regulation and Progressive Presidents
3.4 American Imperialism and the Spanish-American War
3.5 The United States as a World Power

In Unit 3, students will:

Explain how the Progressive movement addressed problems caused by industrialization, including poor working conditions, political corruption, and social inequality.
Describe the role of women in the Progressive Era, including the suffrage movement and the 19th Amendment.
Analyze how the federal government expanded its role in regulating business and protecting the public.
Identify the causes and consequences of U.S. imperialism, including the Spanish-American War and debates over America's global role.
Evaluate the limits of the Progressive movement, including who it helped, who it excluded, and what it reveals about democratic reform.

California: 11.2.7–11.2.9, 11.4.1
Nevada: SS.9-12.US.13, 14, 16, 23, 25, 27, 30

Unit 4: World War I, Democratic Strain, and the Interwar Years

4.1 The Causes of World War I and U.S. Entry
4.2 The Home Front: Propaganda and Civil Liberties
4.3 The Treaty of Versailles and the Legacy of World War I
4.4 The Roaring Twenties: Culture, Conflict, and Change
4.5 The Great Depression and the Rise of Dictatorships

In Unit 4, students will:

Explain the causes of World War I and why the United States entered the war in 1917.
Analyze how the U.S. government used propaganda, censorship, and law to shape public opinion during the war.
Describe the outcomes of World War I, including the Treaty of Versailles and its role in future conflict.
Identify the social and cultural tensions of the 1920s, including nativism, the Ku Klux Klan, and conflicts between traditional and modern values.
Evaluate how the Great Depression contributed to the rise of authoritarianism in Europe.

California: 11.4.1–11.4.7
Nevada: SS.9-12.US.13, 15, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26

Unit 5: World War II and the Holocaust

5.1 Fascism, Appeasement, and the Road to World War II
5.2 The Holocaust: Persecution and Genocide
5.3 Resistance, Collaboration, and Moral Choice
5.4 World War II in Europe and the Pacific
5.5 The End of the War and Its Lasting Legacy

In Unit 5, students will:

Explain the ideological, economic, and political causes of fascism's rise and the failure of appeasement.
Trace the escalation of Nazi persecution from legal discrimination to the Holocaust.
Evaluate responses to genocide, including resistance, rescue, collaboration, and bystanding.
Describe World War II as a global conflict and analyze its major turning points in Europe and the Pacific.
Assess the postwar response to wartime atrocities and civil liberties violations, including the Nuremberg Trials, Japanese American internment, and new human rights protections.

California: 11.7.1–11.7.8
Nevada: SS.9-12.US.23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31

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