# US History, Part 2
# Course Outline & Objectives

**Course Description:**

United States History, Part 2 examines the United States from the aftermath of World War II through the 21st century. Students explore the Cold War, postwar society, civil rights and social movements, the Vietnam War, changing public trust in government, conservatism, globalization, technological change, and contemporary challenges to democracy. Throughout the course, students analyze historical evidence, evaluate multiple perspectives, and consider how the decisions and conflicts of recent history continue to shape American life and the nation's role in the world.

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

## Course Outline

### Unit 1: Postwar America, Memory, and the Cold War

1.1 The Aftermath of World War II and a New World Order
1.2 Human Rights, War Crimes Trials, and Historical Memory
1.3 Origins of the Cold War and Containment
1.4 Life in Postwar America: Prosperity and Conformity
1.5 Fear, Dissent, and Democratic Tension

### Unit 2: Civil Rights and Social Movements

2.1 The African American Civil Rights Movement
2.2 Women's Rights and Feminist Movements
2.3 Latino, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ Activism
2.4 Youth Culture and Social Change
2.5 Expanding Democracy and Political Participation

## California Standards

### Nevada Academic Content Standards for Social Studies

**In Unit 1, students will**:

Explain how the end of World War II created a new global balance of power between the United States and the Soviet Union.
Analyze how the postwar world sought to institutionalize human rights and accountability through new international frameworks.
Describe the origins of the Cold War and the policy of containment that shaped U.S. foreign policy for decades.
Evaluate the social and economic changes of postwar American life, including suburbanization and the pressures of cultural conformity.
Assess how Cold War fear shaped domestic politics and tested the balance between national security and civil liberties.

**California: 11.4.6, 11.7.8, 11.8.1, 11.8.5, 11.8.7–11.8.8, 11.9.1–11.9.3**
**Nevada: SS.9-12.US.13, 15, 23, 25, 28, 34, 35, 37**

**In Unit 2, students will**:

Trace the strategies and achievements of the African American Civil Rights Movement, and the resistance it faced.
Evaluate how these movements expanded democratic participation and redefined American citizenship.
Analyze how youth culture reflected and helped drive social and political change.
Describe how Latino, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ activists organized to challenge discrimination and expand rights.
Explain the goals and impact of the women's rights and feminist movements of this era.

**California: 11.10.1–11.10.7, 11.11.3**
**Nevada: SS.9-12.US.14, 16, 17, 26, 27, 28, 30, 35, 37**

## Course Outline

### Unit 3: Vietnam, Protest, and Trust in Government

3.1 Causes and Escalation of the Vietnam War
3.2 The Antiwar Movement and Youth Activism
3.3 Media, Protest, and Public Opinion
3.4 Watergate and Executive Accountability
3.5 Shifting Trust in Government

## California Standards

### Nevada Academic Content Standards for Social Studies

**In Unit 3, students will**:

Explain the causes of U.S. involvement in Vietnam and how the war escalated over time.
Analyze the antiwar movement and the role of youth activism in shaping public debate over the war.
Evaluate how media coverage of Vietnam shaped public opinion and government credibility.
Describe the Watergate scandal and its implications for executive accountability.
Assess how Vietnam and Watergate together altered American trust in government institutions.

**California: 11.9.3–11.9.4, 11.11.4**
**Nevada: SS.9-12.US.23, 24, 27, 32, 34, 37, 38**

### Unit 4: Conservatism, Globalization, and Technological Change

4.1 The Conservative Movement and Political Realignment
4.2 Economic Policy, Inequality, and Global Markets
4.3 Immigration and Demographic Change
4.4 Technology, Media, and Cultural Transformation
4.5 The End of the Cold War

**In Unit 4, students will**:

Explain the rise of the modern conservative movement and the political realignment it produced.
Analyze the economic policies of this era and their effects on inequality and global markets.
Describe how immigration reshaped American demographics in the late 20th century.
Evaluate how new technologies and media transformed American culture and daily life.
Explain the causes and consequences of the end of the Cold War.

**California: 11.8.7, 11.9.5, 11.11.1–11.11.3**
**Nevada: SS.9-12.US.13, 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, 32, 41, 43, 44, 45**

### Unit 5: The United States in the 21st Century

5.1 Terrorism and Global Conflict
5.2 Civil Liberties and National Security
5.3 Economic Crisis and Social Inequality
5.4 Media, Polarization, and Democracy
5.5 Civic Engagement and the Future of the United States

**In Unit 5, students will**:

Explain how the September 11 attacks reshaped U.S. foreign policy and led to sustained military engagement abroad.
Assess opportunities and challenges for civic engagement in shaping the nation's future.
Evaluate how changing media technology has affected political polarization and democratic discourse.
Describe the causes and consequences of the 2008 financial crisis and its effect on economic inequality.
Analyze the tension between national security policy and civil liberties protections in the post-9/11 era.

**California: 11.9.6, 11.11.6**
**Nevada: SS.9-12.US.18, 23, 24, 25, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44**


© Silicon Valley High School, Inc.