

Syllabus

US History A

Course Overview

US History is the study of the events, people, and culture of the United States over time. In US History A, you will learn about the process of historical inquiry, review the events and principles behind the founding of the United States, and then apply historical inquiry to analyze societal issues, trends, and events from the Civil War through the Great Depression. You'll explore timelines to gain an understanding of how events link to each other, and you'll analyze historical documents for a firsthand sense of how events unfolded. You'll also gather evidence from relevant documents and historical texts in order to develop credible explanations of events in US history. You'll then use that evidence to evaluate change and continuity over time by writing essays and creating presentations about broad periods of historical development.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you will accomplish the following:

- Build the skills of historical inquiry, including gathering sources and analyzing documents.
- Solidify an understanding of the American Revolution and the founding of the United States.
- Review the events leading to the Civil War and the primary battles and events of the war.
- Explore the effects of the Civil War and the difficult process of Reconstruction that followed.
- Analyze the changes in US society due to the Industrial Revolution and rapid immigration in the late 1800s.
- Develop an understanding of the populist and progressive social and political movements of the early twentieth century.
- Examine the imperialist actions and tendencies of the United States after the Civil War.
- Analyze the role of the United States in World War I.
- Explore the rapid economic expansion of the United States after World War I and the social issues that evolved in that framework.
- Examine how the United States and the world fell into the Great Depression, and analyze President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal response.

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Complete basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Docs presentation.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

US History A is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- notebook
- pencils or ink pens
- computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Unit 1: The Historical Process

Summary

This unit focuses on the process involved in the study of history as a subject. It begins by explaining how reading and writing skills are essential to the study of history. The unit goes on to outline the different resources and methods that historians have used to gather evidence, and various ways to interpret and evaluate those different sources.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
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1 day: 1	Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	Course Orientation
6 days: 2–7	The European Subcontinent <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of the European subcontinent.</i>	Lesson
7 days: 8–14	Eastern Europe and Northern Asia <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of eastern Europe and northern Asia.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 15–18	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 19	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: The Foundation of the United States

Summary

This unit focuses on the countries in central, South, East, and Southeast Asia. It describes the common heritage as well as similarities and differences among the geographic, environmental, and economic aspects of the countries in these regions and analyzes how these factors will impact their future development.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
8 days: 20–27	Central Asia and South Asia <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of central Asia and South Asia.</i>	Lesson
7 days: 28–34	East Asia <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of East Asia.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 35–40	Southeast Asia <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of Southeast Asia.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 41–44	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 45	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: A Union in Crisis

Summary

Summary

This unit focuses on the development of the United States before, during, and after the Civil War. The unit analyzes the causes of the war, explores the battles and events that took place during the war, and examines the impact of the Union's victory, including a discussion of Reconstruction and the fate of freed slaves immediately after the war.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
8 days: 46–53	The Middle East and North Africa <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of the Middle East and North Africa.</i>	Lesson
7 days: 54–60	West Africa and Central Africa <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of West Africa and central Africa.</i>	Lesson
6 days: 61–66	East Africa and Southern Africa <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of East Africa and southern Africa.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 67–70	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 71	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment

Unit 4: The Rise of a Modern Nation

Summary

This unit focuses on the rapid transformation of the United States in the decades after the Civil War. It traces the country's evolution due to industrialization, examines the challenges faced by ordinary Americans in this dramatic period, discusses the reactions to inequities within the economy and society, and explores the imperialist inclinations of the United States as a growing international power.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
7 days: 72–78	Australia and New Zealand <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of Australia and New Zealand.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 79–83	Oceania and Antarctica <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of Oceania and Antarctica.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 84–87	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 4	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 4	Assessment

1 day: 89	Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End-of-Semester Test	Assessment

Unit 5: From War to Recovery

Summary

This unit focuses on the turbulent times in the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century. It begins by examining the role of the United States in World War I, explores the prosperity of the 1920s, followed by the collapse and hardship of the Great Depression, and analyzes the massive government-led effort to come out of the Depression in the 1930s.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
7 days: 72–78	Australia and New Zealand <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of Australia and New Zealand.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 79–83	Oceania and Antarctica <i>Analyze the human and physical geography of Oceania and Antarctica.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 84–87	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 4	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 4	Assessment
1 day: 89	Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End-of-Semester Test	Assessment