

Syllabus

US History B

Course Overview

US History is the study of the events, people, and culture of the United States over time. In US History B, you will apply historical inquiry to analyze societal issues, trends, and events of US history from World War II to the present, including the Cold War, Civil Rights and other social movements, the Vietnam War, modern presidencies, and responses to global terrorism. You'll explore timelines to gain an understanding of how events link to each other, and you'll analyze historical documents for a firsthand sense of how events unfolded.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.

Course Goals

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

- Apply the skills of historical inquiry, including gathering sources and analyzing documents.
- Explain and discuss the origins of World War II and the US role in the war's final years.
- Analyze the impact of World War II on US society during and after the war.
- Explore the beginning of the Cold War in the 1950s and its evolution until the late 1980s.
- Analyze the impact of the social movements of the 1960s and 1970s.
- Develop an understanding of how the United States initiated its involvement in the Vietnam War and how the lengthy conflict impacted Americans and US society.
- Explore the impact of the presidencies of Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan.
- Discuss the foreign and domestic policies of the last 20 years, including the US response to global terrorism.
- Review the basic governmental structures of the United States and their impact on US history.
- Explain the relationship of geography, culture, and science in the development of the United States over time.

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 B 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: World War II and Its Aftermath

Summary

This unit focuses on World War II and how the United States evolved after the war's conclusion. It traces the causes and course of World War II, including US involvement, discusses the impact of the war on US society and the economy, and explores the causes of the Cold War, which took hold after the conclusion of World War II.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
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
4 days: 2–5	World War II <i>Trace US involvement in World War II.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 6–9	The Effects of World War II on the Home Front <i>Evaluate the effects of World War II on the home front.</i>	Lesson

4 days: 10–13	Post-World War II Society <i>Analyze the economic boom and social transformation of the United States after World War II.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 14–17	Anticommunism and the Roots of the Cold War <i>Examine the causes of the Cold War.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 18–21	Cold War Events <i>Evaluate the US response to Soviet aggression during the Cold War.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 22–25	The Rise of the Middle Class <i>Describe the rise of the middle class and changes in American society in the 1950s.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 26–30	Unit Activity and Discussion —Unit 1	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 31	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: A Time of Upheaval

Summary

This unit focuses on the many dramatic changes that occurred during the 1960s and 1970s in the United States. The unit looks at the civil rights movement of the 1960s, evaluates Johnson’s Great Society transformation, dissects the Vietnam War, and examines the critical events and outcomes of the presidencies of Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Jimmy Carter.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 32–35	The Civil Rights Movement <i>Evaluate the key individuals, organizations, and events that shaped the civil rights movement.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 36–39	The Vietnam War <i>Describe US involvement in the Vietnam War.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 40–43	The Domestic Policies of Johnson and Nixon <i>Evaluate the domestic policies of presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon.</i>	Lesson

4 days: 44–47	The Ford and Carter Presidencies <i>Examine the presidencies of Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter and analyze the economic and foreign policy changes of the 1970s.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 48–52	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 53	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: The Reagan Era through Today

Summary

This unit focuses on modern domestic and international issues in the United States from 1980 through today. The unit examines Ronald Reagan’s presidency and his economic and foreign policies, details the end of the Cold War, traces the post-Cold War foreign policies of US presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush, looks at terrorism within and outside the United States, and concludes by examining the US role in the global economy and the significance of the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
4 days: 54–57	The Reagan Era and the End of the Cold War <i>Examine the presidency of Ronald Reagan and trace the events that ended the Cold War.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 58–60	Foreign Policy Challenges of the 1990s <i>Describe foreign policy challenges during the presidencies of George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 61–63	Domestic and International Terrorism <i>Describe domestic and international terrorist events of the early twenty-first century and evaluate the successes and failures of the US government’s response.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 64–66	Contemporary Domestic Issues <i>Describe the social concerns of the contemporary United States.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 67–70	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 71	Posttest—Unit 3	Assessment

Unit 4: Social Studies Concepts

Summary

This unit takes a broad view of social studies topics as they relate to the United States and the arc of US history. It brings together topics related to geography, government, cultural trends and forces, and the impact of technology and scientific discoveries, examining how these aspects of society have impacted the development of the United States over time.

Day	Activity/Objective	Type
3 days: 72–74	Population, Geography, and the Physical Environment <i>Examine the impact of population growth and geographic factors on the physical environment of the United States.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 75–77	US Government and Citizenship <i>Examine the government of the United States and aspects of US citizenship.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 78–80	US Culture <i>Evaluate the diverse aspects of US culture over time.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 81–83	Science and Technology <i>Examine the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States.</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