

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 You'll explore timelines to gain an understanding of how events link to each other, and you'll analyze historical documents for a firsthand sense of how events unfolded.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
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
3 days: 2–4	Reading and Writing Essays about History <i>Examine and describe the reading and writing skills required for writing effective essays about history.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 5–7	Gathering and Interpreting Historical Sources <i>Review and describe how historians gather and interpret historical evidence.</i>	Lesson

3 days: 8–10	Analyzing Historical Information <i>Use a variety of methods to analyze historical information.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 11–13	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 1	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 14	Posttest—Unit 1	Assessment

Unit 2: The Foundation of the United States

Summary

This unit focuses on founding events and principles of the United States as a nation. It includes an analysis and comparison of the Enlightenment and the Great Awakening, an examination of the events that led to the demand for independence from Great Britain, an exploration of the events of the American Revolution, and a tracing of the developments that resulted in the Constitution.

Day	Activity/ Objective	Type
2 days: 15–16	The Enlightenment and the Great Awakening <i>Analyze the Enlightenment and the Great Awakening.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 17–19	The Role of Religion in the United States <i>Analyze the role religion played in the founding of the United States and its lasting effects on religious liberties.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 20–22	The American Revolution <i>Explain and analyze the American Revolution.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 23–25	America's Founding Documents <i>Analyze the evolution of America's founding documents from the Articles of Confederation to the US Constitution.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 26–28	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 2	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 29	Posttest—Unit 2	Assessment

Unit 3: A Union in Crisis

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
3 days: 30–32	Events Leading to the Civil War <i>Characterize the causes and consequences of the Civil War.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 33–35	The Civil War: Battles, Strategies, and Effects <i>Identify and explain military strategies, battles, and diplomacy during the Civil War.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 36–38	Reconstruction <i>Evaluate Reconstruction and its effects in the South.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 39–41	The Jim Crow South <i>Explain the establishment of Jim Crow laws in the South.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 42–44	The Effects of Westward Expansion <i>Describe the effects of westward expansion on various communities and on the United States as a whole.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 45–47	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 3	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 48	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
3 days: 49–51	The Industrial Revolution <i>Analyze the ways that industrialization transformed US society.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 52–54	Immigration in the Late 1800s <i>Analyze the great immigration wave of the late 1800s and its effects on US society.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 55–57	The Populist Movement <i>Examine the roots and key principles of the populist movement.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 58–60	The Progressive Era <i>Discuss the impact of progressives, including their efforts to shape public policies.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 61–63	Women and African Americans in the Progressive Era <i>Describe the changing roles of women and African Americans during the Progressive Era.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 64–66	Toward an Imperialist United States <i>Evaluate the rise of US imperialism.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 67–69	Unit Activity and Discussion —Unit 4	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 70	Posttest—Unit 4	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
3 days: 71–73	The US Role in World War I <i>Analyze the role of the United States in World War I and examine the events surrounding the Treaty of Versailles.</i>	Lesson
2 days: 74–75	The Roaring Twenties <i>Examine the economic, social, and political landscape of the 1920s.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 76–78	Modernism and Antimodernism <i>Examine modernist developments of the 1920s in science and the arts, as well as society's reactions to modernism.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 79–81	The Great Depression <i>Characterize the causes and effects of the Great Depression.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 82–84	The New Deal <i>Evaluate Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal policies and his efforts to reverse the Great Depression.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 85–87	Unit Activity and Discussion—Unit 5	Unit Activity Discussion
1 day: 88	Posttest—Unit 5	Assessment
1 day: 89	Semester Review	
1 day: 90	End-of-Semester Test	Online