

Modern American Life

Course Overview

Modern American Life covers American history from 1941 to the present. In this course, we explore the social, political, economic, and cultural factors that have impacted the United States and the broader world.

Course Materials : National Geographic: America Through the Lens.

Course Outline

Unit 4: A New World Power

- I. Chapter 14: The Cold War and Korea (1945-1960) - 4 weeks
 - A. The Iron Curtain
 1. Europe Rebuilds
 2. The Soviet Threat
 3. The Cold War Begins
 4. Truman's Fair Deal
 - B. Confronting Communism
 1. Escalating Tensions
 2. Cold War Around the Globe
 3. The Korean War
 - C. McCarthy and Domestic Tensions
 1. The "Red Scare" Continues
 2. The Rise of McCarthyism
 - D. Chapter Quiz; Primary Source Response
 - E. 8.1.12.A; 8.1.12.B

- II. Chapter 15: Postwar Prosperity (1945-1960) - 4 weeks
 - A. The Postwar Boom
 1. Eisenhower As President
 2. American Society in the 1950s
 3. Suburbs Around Cities
 - B. New Media and Technologies
 1. Automobile Mania
 2. Culture of the Fifties
 - C. Poverty and Discrimination
 1. Urban and Rural Poverty
 - D. Chapter Quiz; Unit 4 Test (Chapters 14 and 15)
 - E. 8.1.12.A; 8.1.12.B; 8.3.12.A; 8.3.12.B

Unit 5: Years of Turbulence

- I. Chapter 16: The Civil Rights Movement (1954-1964) - 4 weeks
 - A. Roots of the Movement
 - 1. Progress After the War
 - 2. Resistance Through the Arts
 - 3. Challenging School Segregation
 - 4. American Voices: Thurgood Marshall
 - B. The Movement Gathers Force
 - 1. Women Take a Stand
 - 2. Dr King and a Growing Movement
 - 3. Protests in Birmingham
 - 4. Document-Based Question: Demanding Reform
 - 5. The March on Washington
 - C. Chapter 16 Quiz
 - D. 8.1.12.A; 8.1.12.B; 8.3.12.A; 8.3.12.B

- II. Chapter 17: Reform in the 1960s (1960-1968) - 4 weeks
 - A. The New Frontier
 - 1. Kennedy's Early Challenges
 - 2. Kennedy Embraces Progress
 - 3. The Cuban Missile Crisis
 - 4. American Voices: John F. Kennedy
 - B. The Great Society
 - 1. Johnson's Strong Start
 - 2. The Great Society
 - 3. Selma to Montgomery
 - 4. New Leaders and Challenges: Emergence of "Black Power" movements
 - 5. The Space Race
 - C. Chapter 17 Quiz
 - D. 8.1.12.A; 8.1.12.B; 8.3.12.A; 8.3.12.B

- III. Chapter 18: The Vietnam War (1954-1975) - 4 weeks
 - A. U.S. Involvement in Vietnam
 - 1. The Cold War in the Third World
 - 2. The Gulf of Tonkin Incident and Resolution
 - B. A Difficult War
 - 1. War Strategies
 - 2. Growing Opposition to the War at Home
 - 3. The "Counter-Culture"
 - C. 1968: A Turning Point
 - D. Ending the War

1. Vietnamization Under Nixon
 2. Fall of Saigon and the Legacy of the War
- E. Chapter 18 Quiz
F. Standards: 8.3.12.A; 8.3.12.B; 8.3.12.C

- IV. Chapter 19: Changes in Society (1960-1975) - 4 weeks
- A. Latinos in the United States
 1. Latino Lives in the U.S.
 2. Latino Workers
 - B. Native Americans and Asian Americans in the 60s and 70s
 1. Native Americans Mobilize
 2. Native Americans and Civil Rights
 3. Contributions of Asian American
 - C. Women in the 60s and 70s
 - D. From Earth to the Moon
 - E. Chapter 19 Quiz; Unit 5 Test
 - F. Standards: 8.3.12.A; 8.3.12.B; 8.3.12.C

Unit 6: Challenges of a New Century

- V. Chapter 20: Presidential Successes and Failures (1968-1980) - 4 weeks
- A. Nixon's Presidency
 1. Nixon's Comeback
 2. Nixon's New Federalism
 3. The Watergate Scandal
 - B. Ford, Carter, and Economic Challenges
 1. Ford Succeeds Nixon
 2. Carter and the Energy Crisis
 3. The Iran Hostage Crisis
 - C. Chapter 20 Quiz
 - D. Standards: 8.3.12.A; 8.3.12.B; 8.3.12.C
- VI. Chapter 21: The Conservative Revolution (1980-1992) - 4 weeks
- A. The Conservative Movement
 1. Roots of the Conservative Movement
 2. Growth of the Sunbelt
 3. Election of Ronald Reagan
 - B. Reagan's Revolution
 1. Reducing Government
 2. Reagan's Foreign Policy
 3. Social Changes and Tensions

- C. The Cold War Ends
 - 1. Collapse of the Soviet Union
 - 2. Document-Based Question: The End of the Cold War
 - 3. George H.W. Bush and the Persian Gulf War
 - 4. American Gallery: The Fall of the Berlin Wall
- D. Chapter 21 Quiz
- E. Standards: 8.3.12.B; 8.3.12.C; 8.3.12.D

VII. Chapter 22: America in a Global Society (1992-Present) - 4 weeks

- A. The Clinton Presidency
 - 1. Moderate Reform Under President Clinton
 - 2. Globalization and Immigration
 - 3. Economic Boom and Scandals
- B. September 11, 2001
 - 1. The Contested Election of 2000
 - 2. Attack on the United States
 - 3. The War on Terror
- C. The Election of Barack Obama
 - 1. The Great Recession
 - 2. The Election of 2008
 - 3. The Obama Presidency
- D. Issues for a New Century
 - 1. Technological Revolution
 - 2. Impacts of Globalization
 - 3. The Election of Donald J. Trump
- E. Chapter 22 Quiz; Unit 6 Test
- F. Standards: 8.3.12.B; 8.3.12.C; 8.3.12.D