

## U.S. History Syllabus - 2025-2026

**Instructor:** Zachery Peppers

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**Classroom:** 122

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### Course Outcomes

- **Course Description:** This course examines U.S. history from Reconstruction through the present, emphasizing critical events, movements, and individuals that have shaped the nation. Students will explore the social, political, and economic forces that contributed to the country's development.
  - **Curriculum Standards:** Tennessee state standards for U.S. History and Geography ([[hyperlink to standards](#)]).
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### Instruction

- **Topics/Competencies/Skills:**
    - Reconstruction
    - Westward Expansion and Industrialization
    - The Progressive Era
    - World Wars I and II
    - The Great Depression and the New Deal
    - The Civil Rights Movement
    - The Cold War
    - Modern America
  - **General Pacing:** Topics will be covered in weekly units, aligning with the school calendar and pacing guide.
  - **Materials Needed for the Class:**
    - Notebook
    - Writing utensils
    - Textbook: [Title and Edition]
    - Access to online resources (ASPN or school-provided tools).
  - **Resources:** Primary and secondary sources, multimedia tools, and supplemental handouts.
  - **Safety Procedures:** Not applicable.
  - **Intervention Offered:** Tutoring available after school on [specific days and times].
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## Assessment and Grading

- **Grading Policy:**
    - Daily Work: 40%
    - Quizzes and Projects: 40%
    - Tests: 20%
  - **Explanation of Assignments:** Detailed rubrics and guidelines will be provided for all major projects and essays.
  - **Make-Up and Late Work Policy:**
    - Late assignments are accepted up to one week after the due date with a 10% deduction per day.
    - Students who miss class due to excused absences must coordinate with the teacher for makeup work within one week.
  - **Grade Posting Policy:** Grades will be updated in ASPEN weekly.
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## General Expectations

### Students

- **Attendance Policy:** Follow school guidelines as stated in the student handbook.
  - **Classroom Policies:**
    - Respect your peers, teacher, and property.
    - Come to class prepared and stay on task.
    - Follow school policies regarding appropriate behavior and technology use.
  - **Honor Code:** Students are expected to act with integrity and follow the school's PBIS plan. Violations, such as cheating or plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action.
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## Plagiarism

Plagiarism, including the use of generative AI, is considered academic fraud.

- **Definition:** According to the Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition, plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's ideas, research, or opinions as your own without proper documentation, even if rephrased.
- **Examples of Plagiarism:**
  - Copying verbatim or paraphrasing without citing the source.
  - Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without proper attribution.
- **Consequences:**
  - Students found guilty of plagiarism may redo the assignment for a reduced grade or take a zero, as determined by the teacher in consultation with parents.

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## Religion in the Classroom

The teaching of religion will follow Board Policy 4.804, ensuring it is factual, objective, and respectful.

- **Board Guidelines:** Discussions will focus on the historical, cultural, and political significance of religion without promoting specific beliefs.

## Curriculum Outline

### 1. Introduction and Unit 1: Westward ExpansionContent:

Book Chapter 1: A Changing Nation, 1860–1890

Lesson 1: The Impacts of Reconstruction

Lesson 2: The Transformation of the West

Lesson 3: Native Americans

### 2. Unit 2: Industrialization and Immigration

Content:

Book Chapter 2: Creating a Modern America, 1865–1901

Lesson 1: Industry and the Railroads

Lesson 2: Big Business and Unions

Lesson 3: Immigration

Lesson 4: Urbanization and Social Reform

Lesson 5: The Segregated Gilded Age

### 3. Unit 3: The Progressive Era (September 9 - September 20)

Content:

Book Chapter 4: The Progressive Movement, 1890–1917

Lesson 1: The Roots of Progressivism

Lesson 2: Roosevelt and Taft

Lesson 3: The Wilson Years

#### **4. Unit 4: Imperialism and World War I**

Content:

##### **Book Chapter 3: Becoming a World Power, 1872–1917**

Lesson 1: The Imperialist Vision

Lesson 2: The Spanish-American War

Lesson 3: New American Diplomacy

##### **Book Chapter 5: World War I and Its Aftermath, 1917–1920**

Lesson 1: The United States Enters World War I

Lesson 2: The Home Front

Lesson 3: A Bloody Conflict

Lesson 4: The War's Impact

#### **5. Review and First Cumulative Benchmark**

Review: All content covered.

First Cumulative Benchmark: October 18

#### **6. Unit 5: The Roaring Twenties**

Content:

##### **Book Chapter 6: The Jazz Age, 1921–1929**

Lesson 1: The Politics of 1920s

Lesson 2: A Growing Economy

Lesson 3: A Clash of Values

Lesson 4: Cultural Innovations

Lesson 5: African American Culture and Politics

## **7. Unit 6: The Great Depression and the New Deal**

Content:

### **Book Chapter 7: The Great Depression Begins, 1929–1932**

Lesson 1: The Causes of the Great Depression

Lesson 2: Life During the Depression

Lesson 3: Hoover's Response to the Depression

### **Book Chapter 8: Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1931–1941**

Lesson 1: The First New Deal

Lesson 2: The Second New Deal

Lesson 3: The New Deal Coalition

## **8. Unit 7: World War II**

Content:

### **Book Chapter 9: A World In Flames, 1931–1941**

Lesson 1: The Origins of World War II

Lesson 2: From Neutrality to War

Lesson 3: The Holocaust

### **Book Chapter 10: America and World War II, 1941–1945**

Lesson 1: Wartime America

Lesson 2: The War in the Pacific

Lesson 3: The War in Europe

Lesson 4: The War Ends

## **9. Review and Second Cumulative Benchmark**

Review: All content covered from October 21 to December 6.

Second Cumulative Benchmark: December 11

## **10. Unit 8: The Cold War and Postwar America**

### **Content:**

Book Chapter 11: The Cold War Begins, 1945–1960

Lesson 1: The Origins of the Cold War

Lesson 2: The Early Cold War Years

Lesson 3: The Cold War and American Society

Lesson 4: Eisenhower's Cold War Policies

### **Book Chapter 12: Postwar America, 1945–1960**

Lesson 1: Truman and Eisenhower

Lesson 2: The Affluent Society

Lesson 3: The Other Side of American Life

## **11. Unit 9: Civil Rights Movement**

### **Content:**

### **Book Chapter 14: The Civil Rights Movement, 1954–1968**

Lesson 1: The Movement Begins

Lesson 2: Challenging Segregation

Lesson 3: New Civil Rights Issues

## **12. Unit 10: The 1960s and 1970s**

### **Content:**

### **Book Chapter 13: The New Frontier and the Great Society, 1960–1968**

Lesson 1: The New Frontier

Lesson 2: JFK and the Cold War

Lesson 3: The Great Society

### **Book Chapter 15: The Vietnam War, 1954–1975**

Lesson 1: Going to War in Vietnam

Lesson 2: Vietnam Divides the Nation

Lesson 3: The War Winds Down

**Book Chapter 16: The Politics of Protest, 1960–1980**

Lesson 1: Students and the Counterculture

Lesson 2: The Feminist Movement

Lesson 3: Latino Americans Organize

**13. Unit 11: The 1980s to Present**

Content:

**Book Chapter 17: Politics and Economics, 1968–1980**

Lesson 1: The Nixon Administration

Lesson 2: The Watergate Scandal

Lesson 3: Ford and Carter

**Book Chapter 18: The Resurgence of Conservatism, 1980–1992**

Lesson 1: The Reagan Years

Lesson 2: Life in the 1980s

Lesson 3: The End of the Cold War

**Book Chapter 19: A Time of Change, 1980–2000**

Lesson 1: The Clinton Years

Lesson 2: A New Wave of Immigration

Lesson 3: Technology and Globalization

**Book Chapter 20: The War on Terrorism, 2001–2008**

Lesson 1: Bush's Global Challenges

Lesson 2: Afghanistan and Iraq

Lesson 3: Domestic Challenges

**Book Chapter 21: Obama and Beyond, 2008–Present**

Lesson 1: Obama's First Term

Lesson 2: A Trouble World

Lesson 3: Obama's Domestic Policy Challenges

Lesson 4: The 2016 Election

Lesson 5: The Trump Administration

**14. Review and Final Comprehensive Benchmark**