

Curriculum Guide

Course: American Studies 2

Written/Revised: 2009

Course Number: 222/223

Number of Credits: 5

Level of Course: Academic/Modified

Grade Level Offered to: 11

Prerequisite: World History, American Studies 1

Course Description:

American Studies II has been designed to provide every student with an understanding of and appreciation for the forces that have shaped the United States of America. This course is the second part of a two-year comprehensive study of important events and personalities that created our nation. The curriculum will link current contemporary issues to past events, policies and decisions. The curriculum will focus on the role played by the United States in the development of the modern world. Emphasis is placed on acquiring historical thinking skills, historical understanding, a clear sense of historical time, historical comprehension, historical analysis and interpretation, historical research, historical issue-analysis, appreciation of basic concepts established in historical development, as well as a fundamental understanding of the structure and operation of our government. Students will be encouraged and expected to study independently, work with others in a collaborative setting, and write in an insightful, comprehensive style that reflects accurate historical information in a critical manner. Students will be expected to complete research projects that use primary sources documents, Internet sources, and other teacher accepted research.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of American Studies II, students will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the geographical, political, social, cultural, and economic history of the United States.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of political and economic forces, geography, social structures and culture on the history of the world from pre-history to the contemporary world.
3. Demonstrate active listening, critical thinking and viewing skills as well as research, interpretation, public speaking, decision-making and problem solving skills through the social studies content standards.
4. Have a broader understanding of social studies through the study of the Humanities, including Literature, art, philosophy, music, and architecture.
5. Acquire an understanding of key economic principles and their relationships to individuals, institutions, and governments.
6. Acquire an understanding of how diverse societies and their cultures have contributed to the human experience in local, regional, and world contexts.

Core Curriculum Content Standards Addressed:

6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6

Course Outline:

The course outline listed below is a core outline that is followed at all levels of instruction. Each level of instruction also includes additional readings, projects, and assignments that are appropriate for that level.

Unit #1: The Depression Era- Surviving the American Dream (2 weeks)

Goal: Students will gain an understanding of the Great Depression and the New Deal measures that dealt with it.

Part A: The Great Depression and World War II

Chapter 20 – Postwar Social Change (1920-1929)

Chapter 23 - New Deal (1933-1941)

Objectives:

1. Explore Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's roles in restoring the nation's hopes.
2. Learn about the major New Deal programs that were created in the First 100 Days, and find out about some of FDR's key players in these programs.
3. Discover what caused the New Deal to falter.
4. Review the key goals and accomplishments of the second new deal.
5. Interpret the significance of the outcome of the 1936 Election.
6. Learn about some of the New Deal's shortcomings and limitations.
7. Discover the chief complaints of FDR's critics inside and outside politics.
8. See how the court packing fiasco harmed FDR's reputation.
9. Learn about factors that led to the recession of 1937 and about the Roosevelt administration response to the situation.
10. Find out about triumphs and setbacks experienced by unions during the New Deal era.
11. Discover some effects of the New Deal on American culture.
12. See what lasting effects can be attributed to the New Deal.

Projects/Videos/Webquests/Primary Source Activities:

History Channel-Great Depression Video, Century Video 1920-1930, Stock Market Simulation of the Great Crash, Great Depression Photo Primary Source Writing, Dust Bowl online video clips.

Unit #2: World War II- The Road to War and America at War (9 weeks)

Goal: Students will gain an understanding of the causes and effects of World War II in respect to America and the world.

Part A: Chapter 24.1, 24.2, 24.3 – World War II: The Road to War (1931-1941)

Objectives:

1. Find out how the government and the economy of the Soviet Union changed under Stalin.
2. Discover the origins and goals of Italy's fascist government.
3. See how Hitler rose to power in Germany and Europe in the late 1930's.
4. Understand how the German invasion of Poland led to war with Britain and France.
5. See what wartime victories and setbacks experienced in Western Europe.
6. Find out why the Battle of Britain was an important victory for Britain.
7. Discover the causes and effects of Japan's growing military power.
8. Learn why Japan looked beyond China for future expansion.
9. Find out why the US chose neutrality in the 1930's.
10. See how American involvement in European conflict grew from 1939 to 1941.
11. Discover why Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor led the US to declare war.

Part B: Chapter 25 – World War II: Americans at War (1941-1945)

Objectives:

1. Find out how FDR mobilized the armed forces.
2. Learn about ways in which the government prepared the economy for war.
3. See how the war affected daily life on the home front.
4. Find out about some ways in which Germany persecuted Jews in the 1930's.
5. See how Germany's policies towards Jews developed from murder to genocide.
6. Learn about advances Japan made in Asia and Pacific in late 1941 and 1942.
7. See which allied victories turned the tide of war in the Pacific.
8. Read about the strategy of the US in the struggle to re-conquer the Pacific Islands.

9. Discover why the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa were important.
10. Understand how the Manhattan Project brought the war to an end.
11. Find out about difficulties Japanese-Americans faced.
12. See how the war changed conditions for working women.

Projects/Videos/Webquests/Primary Source Activities:

Pearl Harbor-Tora, Tora, Tora, Century 1930-1948, Tuskegee Airmen, Saving Private Ryan, Century of Warfare, Windtalkers, Men of Honor, Enemy at the Gates, History Channel- Hitler/Stalin, History Channel-Man of Steel Holocaust Video Sets, Japanese American Internment Diaries, World War II Propaganda, Recruitment Poster, Interactive Maps of Europe, Soviet Union, and North Africa for both pre and post WW II, Online supplemental activities via online textbook.

Unit #3: Chills and Fever During the Cold War (9 weeks)

Goal: Students will obtain knowledge of the origins of the Cold War and America's role in the post war world.

Part A: Chapter 26 – The Cold War (1945-1960)

Objectives:

1. Discover some of the postwar goals of the US and Soviet Union.
2. Find out how the Iron Curtain tightened the Soviet hold over Eastern Europe.
3. See how the Truman Doctrine complemented the policy of containment.
4. Find out how the Marshall Plan, Berlin Airlift, and NATO helped to achieve American goals in postwar Europe.
5. Realize how communist advances affected American foreign policy.
6. See how the Cold War affected American life at home.
7. Observe the ways communist expansion in Asia set the stage for the Korean War.
8. Learn who fought in the Korean War and about the war's 3 stages.
9. Discover the different effects of the Korean War.
10. See how the Cold War was waged in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America during the 1950's.
11. Understand how the arms race developed.

Part B: Chapter 27 – The Postwar Years at Home (1945-1960)

Objectives:

1. Learn how technology transformed life after WW II.
2. Discover ways in which the nation's workforce changed after WW II.
3. See how subways and highway system grew after WW II.

4. Find out why comfort and security were so important to Americans in the 1950's.
5. Learn about the accepted roles of men and women in the 1950's.
6. See how some people challenged conformity in the 1950's.
7. Learn how Truman won the election of 1948.
8. Understand the Republican approach to government during the Eisenhower Presidency.

Projects/Videos/Webquests/Primary Source Activities:

David Halberstam's 1950's, History Channel Berlin Wall/Cuban Missile Crisis, History of Rock-n-Roll, Century Video 1948-1960, 1950's Newspaper, Cold War Document Analysis, 1950's Cultural Project, Interactive Maps of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the growth of nuclear weapons.

Unit #4: A Period of Turmoil and Change-The Struggle for Social Reform (11 weeks)

Goal: Students will gain an understanding of the emergence of social movements as well as causes leading up to American involvement in Vietnam.

Part A: Chapter 28 – The Civil Rights Movement (1950-1968)

Objectives:

1. Learn about events that led to a rise in African-American influence in the 20th century.
2. Find out how Americans responded to the Brown v. Board of Education decision.
3. Discover how the Montgomery Bus Boycott affected the Civil Rights Movement.
4. Find out how early groups laid the foundation for the Civil Rights movement.
5. Understand the philosophy of nonviolence.
6. Realize how SNCC gave students a voice in the Civil Rights movement.
7. Identify the goals of sit-ins and freedom rides.
8. Find out the reaction to James Meredith's integration to the University of Mississippi.
9. Understand how the Birmingham events affected attitudes towards the Civil Rights movement.
10. Learn about Kennedy's approach to Civil Rights.
11. Find out why Civil Rights leaders proposed a March on Washington.
12. Learn the goals of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
13. Learn about Malcolm X's approach to Civil Rights.
14. Become familiar with the major goals of the Black Power movement.
15. See why violent riots erupted in major cities.

16. Find out how the tragic events affected the nation.

Part B: Chapter 29 – The Kennedy and Johnson Years (1961-1969)

Objectives:

1. Learn about the factors that affected the election of 1960.
2. Find out about domestic programs pursued by Kennedy.
3. Read about the circumstances that surrounded JFK's assassination.
4. Find out about some of the goals and programs of the Great Society.
5. Learn about some of the cases that made the Warren Court both important and controversial.
6. Understand the goals and outcomes of the Bay of Pigs invasion.
7. Read to find out about events which led to the Berlin crisis and the Cuban Missile Crisis.
8. Discover the goals for the Alliance for Progress and the Peace Corps.
9. Find out about the Cold War conflicts in which LBJ became involved.

Part C: Chapter 31 – The Vietnam War (1954-1975)

Objectives:

1. Learn about the events that led to the war between North and South Vietnam.
2. Become familiar with the Vietnam policies of Kennedy and Robert McNamara.
3. See how LBJ changed the course of the war.
4. Learn how battlefield affected American soldiers.
5. Be able to describe the course of war between 1965-1968.
6. List reasons why the Tet Offensive was the turning point in the war.
7. Find out about the role played by students in the protest movements of the 1960's.
8. Learn why LBJ decided to not seek re-election in 1968.
9. Discover how the Vietnam War affected the election of 1968.
10. Learn how President Nixon's policies led to American withdrawal from Vietnam.
11. Discover why Nixon campaigned to restore law and order.
12. See what happened in Vietnam after American withdrawal of forces.
13. Determine the legacy of the Vietnam War.

Projects/Videos/Webquests/Primary Source Activities:

JFK Assassination Videos, The Fabulous 60's, The 60's, Letters From Home, Return With Honor, Platoon, We Were Soldiers, Century Video 1960-1970, 1960's Interview Project, Civil Right's Newspaper, Civil Rights Scavenger Hunt, Civil Rights Timeline, Primary Source Comparison: MLK and Malcolm X, MLK Web Quest/ Scavenger Hunt, Little Rock Nine Web quest, Culture Studies of the 60's: Musicians and Artists

Unit #5: Continuity and Change- The Revival of Conservatism

(9 weeks)

Goal: Students will gain knowledge of Presidents' domestic and foreign policy from 1969 to present day.

Part A: Chapter 32 – Nixon, Ford, Carter (1969-1981)

Objectives:

1. Learn how Kissinger relaxed tensions between US and Communist powers.
2. Find out about Nixon's policy towards China.
3. Discover how Nixon reached an agreement with the Soviet Union on limiting arms.
4. See how the Nixon White House battled political enemies.
5. Find out about Nixon's re-election campaign.
6. Learn about the Watergate break-in and how the scandal unfolded.
7. Discover the events which led directly to Nixon's resignation.
8. Find out how Gerald Ford became President.
9. See the types of economic problems that the Ford administration faced.
10. Learn about the foreign policy actions that Ford took.
11. Discover some changes Jimmy Carter brought to the Presidency.
12. Learn how Carter dealt with domestic issues.
13. Find out about Carter's foreign policies.
14. Discover some factors that influenced the election of 1980.

Part B: Chapter 33 – The Conservative Revolution (1980-1992)

Objectives:

1. Read to find about how Reagan attempted to change the economy.
2. Find out about how Reagan changed the federal economy.
3. Reflect on major initiatives and key foreign policy crises of Reagan's first term.
4. Explore the ways in which the economy moved from recession to recovery in the early 1980's.
5. Observe the ways in which the US experienced a renewal of patriotism in the 1980's.
6. Find out about some important social debates that continued in Reagan's term in office.
7. See how the economy evolved during the 1980's.
8. Discover how Reagan's hands-off style of governing led to problems.
9. Consider the legacy of Reagan's presidency.
10. See what challenges Bush faced in the 1988 presidential election.

11. Find out how the Cold War came to an end.
12. Learn about the ways in which the US played a new international role after the Cold War.
13. Observe the effect foreign policy had on Bush's presidency.

Part C: Chapter 34.1 – Entering a New Era (1992-present)

Objectives:

1. Find out what led to Bill Clinton's election of 1992 and what issues he tackled in his first term.
2. See why Republicans issued a Contract with America.
3. Read about the scandals which were debated during Clinton's presidency.
4. Think about the results of the 2000 election and the new goals the President set.
5. Learn about how Americans responded to terrorist attacks in 2001.

Projects/Videos/Webquests/Primary Source Activities:

All the President's Men, History Channel 1970's, Century Video 1970-1990, Miracle movie and documentary, Watergate Project, 1960's/1970's Music Project, 1980's Cultural Project, Iran Hostage Crisis Webquest, 1980's and 1990's online activities for economic policy and technological advances, Primary Activities for the Persian Gulf War, Terrorism and 9/11.

Additional Assignments and Materials:

Throughout the curriculum, there are additional assignments and activities that will be completed that will include but not be limited to technology, primary source writing, small and large group research, classroom debates, and current event discussion.

Reference-Textbook:

Text: **America: Pathways to the Present**, Cayton, A. et al. Prentice Hall, 2005.
<http://www.phschool.com/webcodes10/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.gotoWebCode&wcprefix=mtk&wcsuffix=1000>

See <http://www.hpregonal.org/departments/History/classes/amerstudies2A.htm>

For "Links and Webquests"

Evaluation Tools:

Student Progress: These assessments will be continuous throughout the school year. The evaluation of student progress will be made based on the following criteria:

1. Tests/Quizzes/Essays: 40%-65%
2. Homework/Classwork/Projects: 35%-60%

It is the policy of the Social Studies Department that all assignments are to be presented in a timely manner. All assignments that are turned in after their due date will be considered “late.” Assignments that are one day late will result in a permanent loss of credit.

Evaluation of Teacher Effectiveness:

The teacher’s effectiveness will be assessed through several mechanisms.

1. Teacher self-evaluation
2. Student evaluation
3. Unit evaluation

Periodic Evaluation of Objectives and Guide: To be done yearly

Additional Course Policies:

The Academic Level requires student assessment through the use of a pre-test for reading content.

High Point Regional High School’s curriculum and instruction are aligned to the State’s Core Curriculum Content Standards and address the elimination of discrimination by narrowing the achievement gap, by providing equity in educational programs and by providing opportunities for students to interact positively with others regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability or socioeconomic status.