

West Linn–Wilsonville School District
Social Studies Department – Course Statement

Course Title: Modern US History, Modern US History A/B *

Length of Course: Year
Number of Credits: 1
Grade Level: 10
Prerequisites: None
Work Samples
Offered in Course: Persuasive speaking/writing work sample

Date of Description/Revision: June 2005

Course Overview

This course is a survey of the political, economic, social, cultural, and diplomatic history of the United States with a primary focus on the 20th Century to our present day. Content may include, but not be limited to, the late 19th Century movements of reconstruction, destruction of the American Indian cultures, immigration, progressivism, empire-building, industrialization, isolationism, the Great Depression, America as a world power, the World Wars, the Cold War, civil rights, and the information age. Activities in the course may include the reading and analysis of literature and primary documents, research, debate, simulations, lecture, interviews, and speakers.

Essential Questions

Concepts providing focus for student learning

- What are the challenges of nation building in a diverse culture?
- What is the American Dream – reality, myth, or both?
- What are the challenges in the movement of people from rural to urban society?
- What are the important legal underpinnings of American society?
- How has the American character been affected by the American landscape, both physical and cultural?
- How has American responsibility to and for the world evolved over time?
- How have the issues of race, ethnicity, and religion played out in American history?
- How has America responded to the issues of economic development and disparity?
- How can we reconcile different accounts of history?

Proficiency Statements

Upon completion of course, students will:

- Understand their personal connections with the United States and what it means to be an American.
- Understand the relevance of the US Constitution to their daily lives and future, and their responsibilities as citizens.
- Have an understanding of the important people, events, and movements and their impact on

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<p>American history.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have developed an understanding of America’s evolving role from the beginning of the century to its current position of international prominence. • Understand the cause, character, and impact of political, economic, and social development in US History. • Have gained skills in research, organization, and communication of important facets of US history. • Make relevant connections between the past and the present. 	
General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Post Civil War B. The Progressive Era C. World War I D. The 1920s E. The Great Depression and the New Deal F. World War II G. The Cold War and the Korean War H. Civil Rights and Equal Rights Movements I. The Vietnam Era J. Conservative Resurgence K. Contemporary US Issues 	
Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: <i>The Americans: Reconstruction to the 21st Century</i>, McDougal Littell, 2005 • Other: <i>Hiroshima</i>, John Hersey, Vintage, Reprint 1989 • Other: Variety of library, Internet, and teacher resources. 	

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