

## United States History Grade 11

**Text:** *The Americans, McDougal Littell*

**Supplemental Materials:** *The Americans Workbook, Reading and Study Guide, American Stories Videos*

**Course Description:** The United States History course is a survey of United States History from the Pre-Columbian period to the present day. This Course makes history more meaningful to the students by presenting historical events through the eyes of the people who experienced them. History becomes more relevant by showing the students how people and events of the past connect to the present. Students will be taught critical thinking skills which will help them to become responsible and informed decision-makers. Students will be encouraged to become active citizens as a result of taking United States History. The course will afford students the opportunity to write critically by writing both free response essays and document-based questions.

**Methods of Evaluation:** Students can be evaluated through objective tests, free response essays, document based essays, projects, class work, homework, oral presentations, semester exams and/or other forms of evaluation instruments the instructor finds applicable to the course.

**Pace of Instruction:**

First Semester: Unit 1 – American Beginnings to 1783  
Unit 2 – A New Nation 1781-1850  
Unit 3 – An Era of Growth and Disunion 1825-1877  
Unit 4 – Migration and Industrialization 1877-1917

Second Semester: Unit 5 – Modern America Emerges 1890-1920  
Unit 6 – The 1920's and the Great Depression 1919-1940  
Unit 7 – World War II and Its Aftermath 1931-1960  
Unit 8 – Living With Great Turmoil 1954-1975  
Unit 9 – Passage to a New Century 1968-2001

## Course

**Objectives:** Unit 1: Students will explore a grand sweep of history – from the arrival of the first Americans after the last Ice Age through settlement by diverse colonists and up to the gaining of independence. Students will analyze the results of the complex societies of Native Americans as they came into contact with peoples from Europe and Africa. Students will examine the cultural mingling of the different societies and the resulting tension and adaptation. Students will analyze the development of the British colonies and how they expanded and matured, resulting in differences with Great Britain that impelled them toward independence.

Unit 2: Students will evaluate the effort to write and ratify a plan for the government, the US Constitution, and the struggles of the new nation with internal political divisions and challenges from abroad. Students will analyze the nation's westward expansion at the expense of the Native Americans. Students will analyze how disagreements over slavery drove a growing wedge between the North and the South. Students will evaluate the efforts of reformers to better American society. Students will compare and contrast the push for equality by African Americans and women.

Unit 3: Students will analyze causes and effects of the nation's expansion to the Pacific Ocean. Students will analyze the causes and effects of the growing conflict between the North and the South. Students will examine the secession of the Southern States as they try and Preserve their way of life. Students will analyze the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Unit 4: Students will describe how the US transformed itself from a mostly rural, agricultural society to an urban, industrial one. Students will analyze the effects on Native Americans as farmers, miners, and ranchers settle all regions of the West. Students will evaluate the effect of the domination of the American economy by big business. Students will examine the effects of the new immigration on the cities of the North and East. Students will evaluate the various forms of business Consolidations and their effects on the economy.

Unit 5: Students will evaluate the Progressive Movement. Students will analyze the United States growing interest and involvement in Imperialism. Students will evaluate traditional American isolationism as the US plays a greater role in world affairs than ever before.

Unit 6: Students examine the changes in the US from 1920 to 1940. Students

Will contrast the values of a growing urban culture with those of a Traditional society. Students will analyze the causes and effects of the Great Depression. Students will evaluate the effectiveness of the New Deal in rebuilding the nation's economy.

- Unit 7.: Students will analyze the rise of totalitarian dictatorships in Europe and Japan. Student's will evaluate the American policy of Isolationism in respect to the aggressions of these dictatorships . Students will evaluate US entry into World War II and the subsequent fighting on two fronts. Students will analyze the relationship of the US and the Soviet Union during and after World War II. Students will evaluate The dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Students will evaluate the Marshall Plan and the rebuilding of Europe. Students will evaluate the postwar economic boom that led to the spread of a suburb-based consumer culture.
- Unit 8: Students will identify the social changes in American society from the 1950's through the 1970's. Students will evaluate Johnson's Great Society. Students will analyze the Civil Rights Movement and its leaders. Students will analyze the US military involvement in VietNam and how it divided the nation.
- Unit 9: Students evaluate the turbulent presidency of Richard Nixon. Students assess the failure of Nixon's successors to fix the economic problems of the 1970's. Students analyze the resurgence of conservatism in the 1980's. Students assess the economic changes that accompanies this resurgence. Students evaluate the end of the Cold War. Students determine how the vast economic changes of the 1990's reshaped American lives. Students discuss the challenges and opportunities emerging as the new century begins.