U.S. History since the Civil War Honors traces the nation's history from the end of the Civil War to the present. It describes the emergence of the United States as an industrial nation, highlighting social policy as well as its role in modern world affairs.

Students evaluate the attempts to bind the nation together during Reconstruction while also exploring the growth of an industrial economy. Moving into the 20th and 21st centuries, students probe the economic and diplomatic interactions between the United States and other world players while investigating how the world wars, the Cold War, and the "information revolution" affected the lives of ordinary Americans. Woven through this chronological sequence is a strong focus on the changing conditions of women, African Americans, and other minority groups.

The course emphasizes the development of historical analysis skills such as comparing and contrasting, differentiating between facts and interpretations, considering multiple perspectives, and analyzing cause-and-effect relationships. These skills are applied to text interpretation and in written assignments that guide students step-by-step through problem-solving activities.

Honors students perfect their ability to use logic and evidence to create persuasive written arguments in five-paragraph essays, two independent research projects, and shorter exercises such as document-based questions and analytic discussions.

The course is built to state standards and standards from the National Council for History Education, the National Center for History in the Schools, and the National Council for Social Studies.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Post-Civil War America

- Reconstruction Amendments and Citizenship
- New Opportunities
- Lost Opportunities
- Looking West
- Post-Civil War America Wrap-Up

Unit 2: Industrial America

- The Second Industrial Revolution
- The New Immigrants
- Daily Life in the Industrial Age
- Challenges of Industrialization
- Industrial America Wrap-Up

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Unit 3: Populism and Progressivism

- Populists
- Improving Local Life
- Improving the Nation
- Progressive Race Relations
- Populism and Progressivism Wrap-Up

Unit 4: The Age of Imperialism

- Adding New Colonies
- Americans in Asia
- Big Stick Diplomacy
- World War I
- The United States in the Age of Imperialism Wrap-Up

Unit 5: Semester 1 Review and Exam

Unit 6: Progress and Challenges

- Turning Away from the World
- Challenging Conventions
- Economic Challenges
- World War II
- Progress and Challenges Wrap-Up

Unit 7: The Cold War Begins

- The Cold War Around the World
- The Cold War at Home
- Early Civil Rights
- Post-WWII Popular Culture
- The Cold War Begins Wrap-Up

Unit 8: Change Is in the Air

- The Politics of Change
- Power and the People
- America on the Move
- Détente and the End of the Cold War
- Change Is in the Air Wrap-Up

Unit 9: Contemporary Issues

- The Right and the Left
- The Third Industrial Revolution
- The United States and the World
- The Culture of Now
- Contemporary Issues Wrap-Up

Unit 10: Semester 2 Review and Exam

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