U.S. History traces the nation's history from 1877 to the present. Based on the founding documents of the U.S. government, this course describes the emergence of the United States as an industrial nation, highlighting political, economic, social, and cultural changes, as well as the nation's evolving role in world affairs.

The course begins with a review of major turning points in U.S. history and an analysis of the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Students then examine the attempts to unify the nation following Reconstruction while also exploring the growth of an industrial economy. Moving into the 20th and 21st centuries, the course invites students to 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 for women, African Americans, and other minority groups.

The course emphasizes the development of historical thinking skills such as comparing and contrasting, differentiating between facts and interpretations, considering multiple perspectives, analyzing cause-and-effect relationships, and drawing conclusions. These skills are applied to the analysis of primary and secondary sources through direct instruction and written assignments that guide learners step by step through problem-solving activities.

This course is built to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards and benchmarks for United States History Studies Since 1877. Unit- and semester-level exams are designed to mirror the types of questions students will see on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) exam for U.S. History.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Introduction to United States History Since 1877

- Themes in United States History since 1877
- Social Studies Skills
- Celebrate Freedom Week
- Looking West
- The New Immigrants
- Introduction to United States History Since 1877 Wrap-Up

Unit 2: The Gilded Age

- The Second Industrial Revolution
- Daily Life in the Industrial Age
- Race Relations in the Gilded Age
- Urbanization and Populism

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- Review and Connect: The Gilded Age
- The Gilded Age Wrap-Up

Unit 3: Progressivism and Imperialism

- Improving Local Life
- Improving the Nation
- The United States and the World Economy
- Big Stick Diplomacy
- Review and Connect: Progressivism and Imperialism
- Progressivism and Imperialism Wrap-Up

Unit 4: World War I and Aftermath

- World War I Abroad
- The Effects of WWI at Home
- Turning Away from the World
- Minorities and Women in the 1920s
- Review and Connect: World War I and Aftermath
- The United States in the Age of Imperialism Wrap-Up

Unit 5: Semester 1 Review and Exam

- Semester 1 Review and Exam

Unit 6: The Great Depression and World War II

- The Great Depression
- Roosevelt and the New Deal
- World War II Abroad
- The Effects of WWII at Home
- Review and Connect: The Great Depression and World War II
- The Great Depression and World War II Wrap-Up

Unit 7: The Cold War

- The Origins of the Cold War
- The Cold War at Home
- The Cold War Heats Up
- Détente and the Winding Down of the Cold War
- Review and Connect: The Cold War
- The Cold War Wrap-up

Unit 8: Change Is in the Air

- The Politics of Change
- America on the Move
- Early Civil Rights
- Power and the People
- Review and Connect: Change Is in the Air
- Change is in the Air Wrap-Up

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Unit 9: America Today

- The Right and the Left
- Post-Cold War Foreign Policy
- The Culture of Now
- Brave New World
- Review and Connect: America Today
- America Today Wrap-Up

Unit 10: Semester 2 Review and Exam

- Semester 2 Review and Exam

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