

Curriculum at a Glance
American History 300 (American Studies)
Grade 11

This course emphasizes such important concepts as the development of democratic institutions, industrialization, urbanization, territorial expansion, and reform. In addition to political and economic influences, social and cultural factors are treated: the role of women; minorities; immigration; and the implications of major movements in art, architecture, and literature. Students will read and write extensively. Close reading of texts including primary and secondary sources is required. Emphasis will be on developing levels of abstract thinking with particular attention to synthesizing material from various aspects of American culture. In addition to classroom assessments (e.g. short essays, quizzes, unit tests, and projects), there will also be a major paper per quarter.

Essential Skills

- Annotation/Close Reading (of primary and secondary sources)
- Analyzing Visual Sources
- Individual Research
- Argumentative Writing - Thesis Development
- Source Analysis
- Questioning
- Study Skills and Note Taking
- Public Speaking/Debating/Presenting
- Listening
- Cooperative Learning
- Metacognition/Introspection

Unit Name	Essential Content
Colonial Life in America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The arrival of the settlers to the New World & the changing North American landscape ● Sources of conflict in Colonial America ● Development of government in the New World ● Legacies of economic, political and social features that characterized colonial America
Revolution & Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Causes and impact of the American Revolution ● Evolution of democracy in the New World ● Advantages and disadvantages of creating a new nation
Early Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Changes in American society during the era of national expansion ● Evolution of freedom for Americans in the early Republic ● Individual and sectional interests
Expansion & Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Antebellum expansion and ‘Manifest Destiny’ ● Changing conceptions of democracy and perfection ● Forces of unification and division
Sectionalism & Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Intensifying national division ● The Civil War ● Reconstruction and the role of government
Transformation & Industrialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The United States as a rising world power ● The process and impacts of industrialization on America ● The impacts of immigration on America
Progressivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Power of the individual to bring societal change ● Addressing of societal ills ● Characteristics of the Progressive Era

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Power of government to improve society
America's Entrance to the World Scene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased American interaction in world affairs ● Impact of international events on American society
Prosperity & Crisis (1919-1945)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The rise of modern America ● The response to evolving American values ● The changing role of government for the individual American
Postwar America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The influence of technology on American society ● The impact of postwar era foreign policy on American life ● Facing the challenges of an evolving status quo towards equality