

UNITED STATES HISTORY II

U.S. HISTORY SINCE THE CIVIL WAR

2000-2001 COURSE OUTLINE **MR. T. CUNNINGHAM**

www.geocities.com/socialstudiesjhs

cunningt@jenkintown.org

Overview

United States History II is a full-year survey of the history of our nation since the end of the Civil War, with a heavy emphasis on the twentieth century. It completes the study of American history begun in the eighth grade at a time in students' development when they are becoming aware of their place in our society and are beginning to take on the increased responsibilities of adult citizenship. While the treatment is essentially chronological, throughout the course students will be relating themes and events of the past with modern times, in preparation for their roles in shaping America's future. The study and comprehension of current events is an integral part of the curriculum throughout the year.

Materials

The textbook for United States History II is *America: Pathways to the Present—America in the Twentieth Century*, by Andrew Cayton, Elisabeth Israels Perry, and Allan M. Winkler (Prentice Hall, 1998). Throughout the course a wide variety of primary and secondary source excerpts will also be used. In order to place American history in a literary and cultural context, we will also be reading some of the great American novels of the twentieth century, including *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair and John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. Recent magazine and newspaper articles, the Internet, and the daily program *CNN Newsroom* will contribute to our study of current events.

Activities and Assessment

United States History II is the setting for students to undertake a major research paper, in which they will draw on primary and secondary sources to investigate and analyze a topic of their choice in twentieth century America. Successful completion of this paper is a requirement for graduation, as well as for passing the course. Regular readings and class discussion, oral and written reports, group and individual projects, paper-and-pencil quizzes and tests, homework, portfolio assessments and other assignments will determine whether students have met the course outcomes.

Each assignment is given a point value that determines its weight in relation to other assignments. Every effort will be made to make the grading process as easy to understand as possible, and each marking period will end with a simple calculation of points earned out of points possible.

Course of Study & Methodology

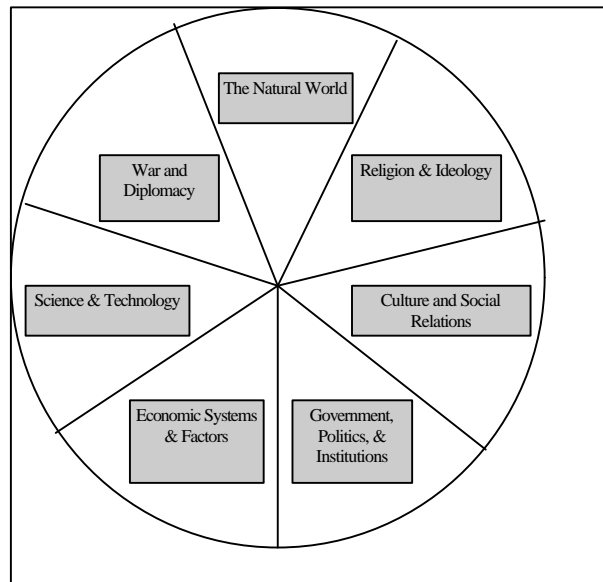
United States History II is divided into chronological, thematic, and cultural units, each being from one to three weeks in length. An outline of outcomes to be mastered and a list of graded assignments will be handed out at the beginning of each unit. A preliminary list of units of study to be covered and themes to be explored follows:

Units (tentative)

- 1. Turning Point: America in Vietnam (ch. 22)**
- 2. Review of American History to the Civil War**
- 3. Becoming a World Power (ch. 9)**
- 4. The Era of Progressive Reform (ch. 10)**
- 5. America in World War I (ch. 11)**
- 6. The Roaring Twenties (ch. 12)**
- 7. The Great Depression & The New Deal (ch 13 & 14)**
- 8. The Second World War (ch. 15 & 16)**
- 9. Postwar America (ch. 17 & 18)**
- 10. America in the 1960s (ch. 19-21)**
- 11. The Nixon Years (ch. 23)**
- 12. From Nixon to the Reagan Revolution (ch. 24 & 25)**
- 13. The 1990s (ch. 26)**

Our chronological study of American history will be organized around these, among other themes:

- I. The Natural World: Nature as a determinant and heir of history
- II. Religion & Ideology: The role of ideas in shaping events and actions
- III. Culture and Social Relations: The way of life of a people, their customs, and daily life
- IV. Government, Politics & Institutions: How the political organization of a society helps drive its history



- V. Economic Systems and Factors: How people earn and distribute their daily bread, and how this affects their relations with others
- VI. Science & Technology: Using science to change how we do our work and live our lives
- VII. War and Diplomacy: How violence has been used to impose and defend the above