



Class Title: Orange US History Part II: From a New Nation to Modern America

Subjects Covered: Social Studies and History

Teacher Name: Candice Braun

Class Day: Friday

Class Size: 15

Overall Class Cost: \$91

Individual Student Supply Fee: \$65

Class Fee: \$96

Ages or color group served: Orange

What level is this class: Level 3

Prerequisites:

U.S. History Part I is **not required****.**

Students should be able to independently read ****middle-school-level informational text**** with reasonable comprehension and have enough reading stamina to complete assigned textbook sections at home. Students should be able to follow written directions and produce basic written responses.

Students do ****not**** need to enter the course proficient in textbook study skills. Students who need additional practice with reading comprehension, identifying main ideas, locating information, note-taking, or using textual evidence are welcome; these skills will be explicitly taught and strengthened throughout the course.

Graduation Requirements: - Attend and actively participate in class in accordance with HCU attendance requirements.

- Complete assigned weekly textbook readings and homework.
- Complete required textbook skill activities, classwork, and written assignments.
- Complete assigned quizzes and/or tests.
- Participate in required projects, primary-source activities, discussions, or presentations.
- Complete the course final assessment or final project.
- Maintain an overall course grade of 70% or higher.

Homework Requirements: ****Weekly homework should be expected.**** Because this course surveys a large period of U.S. History in only 12 weeks, students will regularly complete assigned textbook reading and related coursework outside of class. Families should consider the student's ability and willingness to complete consistent weekly work when enrolling.

Class Description:

What happens after the Constitution is written and a brand-new country has to figure out how to govern itself?

U.S. History Part II picks up where U.S. History Part I ended, with the establishment of the new American government, and follows the story of the United States from the early republic through modern America.

Students will explore the people, conflicts, ideas, inventions, movements, and turning points that shaped the nation through engaging lessons, discussion, activities, primary sources, and historical storytelling.

New to Part II: Students will also use an age-appropriate history textbook as a course spine. Alongside learning history, students will intentionally practice the academic skills required to learn independently from informational text. Skills will include navigating headings and subheadings, identifying main ideas and supporting details, retrieving information efficiently, interpreting maps and timelines, taking useful notes, locating textual evidence, and preparing for open-book assessments.

This course is designed as a survey of U.S. History, emphasizing major events and historical connections rather than memorization of every date, person, or administration. Some periods will be explored in greater depth, while others will be condensed through textbook reading and guided information retrieval.

Students who participated in Part I can expect the engaging, story-driven approach they enjoyed previously, now combined with an additional layer of textbook literacy and independent academic skill-building.

Course Goal: Students are not expected to memorize every person, date, or event encountered during this broad historical period. The goal is for students to leave with a strong understanding of the major turning points and connections that shaped the United States while becoming more capable and independent readers of academic informational text.

U.S. History Part I is helpful but not required.

Week 1:

A New Government Begins

History Focus: George Washington, the first presidency, establishing the federal government, early challenges, political parties, and the precedent set by the new administration.

Textbook Skill: Textbook orientation and previewing — table of contents, chapter titles, headings, subheadings, bold terms, maps, captions, and other text features.

Application: Reconnect Part I to Part II and explore the question: The Constitution created the government—but how do you actually start a country?

Week 2:

Growing Pains of a Young Nation

History Focus: Adams and Jefferson, early political conflict, Louisiana Purchase, Lewis and Clark, foreign relations, and the War of 1812.

Textbook Skill: Identifying main ideas and separating essential information from supporting details.

Application: Use textbook evidence to build a cause-and-effect chain showing how decisions made by the young nation created new opportunities and new problems.

Week 3:

Expansion, Change & a Dividing Nation

History Focus: Jacksonian America, westward expansion, Manifest Destiny, reform movements, territorial growth, slavery, and increasing sectional tension.

Textbook Skill: Information retrieval — using headings, keywords, scanning, maps, captions, and the index to locate specific information without rereading an entire section.

Application: Map the expanding United States while identifying the political and social conflicts developing alongside that expansion.

Week 4:

History Focus: Causes of the Civil War, secession, major turning points, Abraham Lincoln, emancipation, life during the war, surrender, and the consequences of the conflict.

Textbook Skill: Cause and effect, chronology, and supporting an answer with evidence from informational text.

Application: Civil War deep dive using primary sources, maps, timelines, and historical accounts to connect the events students have studied.

Week 5:

Rebuilding & Reinventing America

History Focus: Reconstruction, reunification, changes following emancipation, westward settlement, railroads, industrialization, immigration, cities, and the Gilded Age.

Textbook Skill: Summarizing — reducing several pages of informational text to the most important ideas without simply copying sentences.

Application: Examine how dramatically American life changed between the end of the Civil War and the rise of industrial America.

Week 6:

Reform & America on the World Stage

History Focus: Progressive Era reforms, changing working and living conditions, the Spanish-American War, Theodore Roosevelt, and America's growing international role.

Textbook Skill: Comparing information and recognizing perspective in historical sources.

Application: Compare textbook information with selected historical documents, images, political cartoons, or other primary sources.

Week 7:

World War I & the Roaring Twenties

History Focus: Causes of World War I, U.S. involvement, life during wartime, the aftermath of the war, technological and cultural change, and the 1920s.

Textbook Skill: Effective textbook note-taking — turning headings and important information into concise, usable notes.

Application: Create a condensed “What You Actually Need to Know” record of the era using independently gathered textbook information.

Week 8:

The Great Depression

History Focus: The stock market crash, causes and effects of the Great Depression, life during the Depression, Hoover, Roosevelt, and the New Deal.

Textbook Skill: Constructing an evidence-based response using information located within the text.

Application: Investigate how economic events affected ordinary Americans and use textual evidence to explain historical cause and effect.

Week 9:

World War II

History Focus: Rise of totalitarian governments, Pearl Harbor, U.S. entry into the war, the home front, major theaters and turning points, the Holocaust, atomic bombs, and the end of the war.

Textbook Skill: Synthesizing information from paragraphs, maps, timelines, captions, and primary sources.

Application: WWII deep dive connecting global events with the experiences and decisions of people living through the war.

Week 10:

Cold War America & Civil Rights

History Focus: Origins of the Cold War, communism and containment, Korea, postwar American life, the Civil Rights Movement, and major social changes.

Textbook Skill: Primary versus secondary sources and corroborating information across more than one source.

Application: Use historical documents alongside the textbook to investigate major events and changes in postwar America.

Week 11:

Vietnam to the End of the Cold War

History Focus: Vietnam, social change, Watergate, the 1970s, Reagan-era America, and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Textbook Skill: Identifying historical connections across multiple chapters and time periods.

Application: Build a cause-and-consequence timeline connecting major developments from the Cold War through its conclusion.

Week 12:

America in the Modern Era

History Focus: The United States after the Cold War, globalization, technological change, September 11, major conflicts and events of the early 21st century, and the continuing American story.

Textbook Skill: Independent information retrieval and historical synthesis.

Application: Students demonstrate their ability to independently locate, organize, and use textbook information while connecting modern events to the larger story studied throughout the semester.