

United States History for Middle Schoolers - Part III

From Woodrow Wilson to the Present Day

Grades:	6 th – 8 th
Day of Week:	Wednesdays
Time of Class:	11:00am – 12:30pm ET
Length of Class:	10 weeks
Semester:	Spring 2024

Please note: You can register for the full year of American History for \$600.00. Please look for that option!

Class Dates:

Week 1: March 27, 2024

Week 2: April 3, 2024

Week of April 8: No Classes due to Eid Holiday – Eid Mubarak to our Muslim families!

Week 3: April 15, 2024

Weeks of April 22 & 29: No Classes – Spring Break – Happy Passover to our Jewish families!

Week 4: May 8, 2024

Week 5: May 15, 2024

Week 6: May 22, 2024

Week 7: May 29, 2024

Week 8: June 5, 2024

Week 9: June 12, 2024

Week 10: June 19, 2024

Make-Up Day (if needed): June 26, 2024

Instructor's Name:	Jonathan Meola
Instructor's Email:	jonathan@opententacademy.com
Instructor's Phone:	703.982.0684
Instructor's WhatsApp:	305.906.2897

Description of Class:

This three-part course explores the rich and diverse history of the United States, from its earliest days to the present. We will cover key themes such as the American Revolution, the Civil War, the Civil Rights movement, and more recent events such as 9/11 and the 2020 Presidential Election. The course will explore the American experience and experiment as a whole.

Part III covers the period starting with the election of Woodrow Wilson in 1912 and ending with the midterm elections of 2022. This course will examine the political, economic, and social changes that occurred during this period of American history, including the World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, World War II, Cold War, Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam War, and recent events such as the 9/11 terrorist attack, the 2008 financial crisis, and the aftermath of the Presidential elections of 2016 and 2020. Learners will explore key issues such as the rise of the United States as a global superpower, the Cold War, Civil Rights, and the role of the US in international politics. The course will use a variety of primary and secondary sources, including speeches, court cases, and newspaper articles, to gain a deeper understanding of this dynamic period in American history, and the impact of these events in shaping the United States today.

Class Approach:

Highlighting important events and their historical consequences. The class will be less concerned with memorizing dates and cities and will instead focus on how we can relate to the history of our country as well as feel the courage, passion, and political genius of the founding of our great nation.

Goals:

Learners will gain an appreciation for the United States and the people who fought for it. They will, through discussion and debate, begin to forge and express their opinions, and gain an insight into how events, ideas, and people shaped our country, over this period of early American history.

Textbook:

The textbook for the course, "Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story" by Wilfred M. McClay, provides a comprehensive and engaging introduction to the people, events, and ideas that have shaped this great nation. Using primary sources, historical maps, and other multimedia resources, the textbook offers a deeper understanding of the American story and the forces that have shaped it. Use of this textbook, along with other materials during the course, will help learners to develop critical thinking and analytical skills, and encourage them to engage with the issues and debates that continue to shape the United States today.

Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story (Young Reader's Edition, Volume II)

ISBN-10: 1641772700 (Volume 2)

ISBN-13: 978-1641772709 (Volume 2)

Volume 2: <https://www.amazon.com/Land-Hope-Invitation-American-Readers/dp/1641772700/>

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

- Access to a computer
- Internet Access
- At times, instructor will share an article or video to be viewed in preparation for class

Requirements:

The learners will be expected to write about certain topics concerning American history as well as political ideas. During class, they will be asked to participate by voicing their opinions on key discussion topics. Learners will be expected to participate and interact with the instructor and their peers in class. Learners will be required to complete assignments in a timely manner. Learners need to respect each other.

Weekly Homework:

Approximately two hours a week; assignments will be a mix of worksheets and responses to written prompts.

There will also be:

- a class project, to be completed and shared during Class 10
- a final exam assigned, following Class 10, that will need to be completed at home

Homework Policy:

Homework will be due prior to class for learners to receive full credit unless arrangements have been made in advance. Learners will receive partial credit for homework submitted within two class periods of due date. No credit will be given for homework turned in after two consecutive weeks/sessions. Additionally, any outstanding homework needs to be turned in prior to the class final, even if that is sooner than the two weeks.

Additional Policies:

- Honesty.
- Integrity.
- Respect.

Evaluation:

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| ● Class Assignments & Participation | 35% |
| ● Class Presentation | 30% |
| ● Class Final | 35% |

Grading Scale:

- 100-91: A
- 90-80: B
- 79-70: C
- 69-66: D
- 65 and below - No effort: F

Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction & Origins: Wilsonian Progressivism & the Great War
Week 2	A Return to Normalcy: From Boom to Bust
Week 3	The New Deal
Week 4	Our Finest Hour: World War II
Week 5	Descent of the "Iron Curtain" - Enter the Cold War
Week 6	A Nation Transforms, Turbulently - The Sixties
Week 7	Fall & Restoration - From Nixon to Reagan
Week 8	One War Ends, Another Begins (from the Collapse of the USSR to 9/11)
Week 9	America, United?
Week 10	Class Presentations / Assignment of Final Exam