



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	AHSD
Course Number:	531
Descriptive Title:	High School U.S. History: Reconstruction to the Present
Division:	Adult High School Diploma
Department:	Adult High School Diploma
Course Disciplines:	Adult High School Diploma
Catalog Description:	This noncredit high school level course provides students with an analysis of social, economic, and political factors in United States history from the period of Reconstruction to the present. Successful completion of this course contributes to progress toward a high school diploma or equivalent. From 1-10 high school credits can be earned in 15-hour modules. Note: This course is open entry/open exit.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	.83 to 8.33
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	1.66 to 16.66
Total Course Hours:	15 to 150
Course Units:	0
Grading Method:	Pass/No Pass/SP
Credit Status:	Noncredit
Transfer CSU:	No
Effective Date:	
Transfer UC:	No
Effective Date:	
General Education: ECC	
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	
Term:	

Other:	
Cal-GETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	Upon completion of the course, students will be able to: 1. compare the present with the past, evaluating the consequences of past events and decisions and determining the lessons that were learned. 2. evaluate major debates among historians concerning alternative interpretations of the past, including an analysis of authors' use of evidence and the distinctions between sound generalizations and misleading oversimplifications. 3. show the connections, causal and otherwise, between particular historical events and larger social, economic, and political trends and developments between Reconstruction and the present.
Course Objectives:	1. Use resources to determine historically relevant events, such as Reconstruction, the Westward Movement, Manifest Destiny, immigration, wars, civil rights, etc. 2. Create an outline of topics to be discussed in a research paper. 3. Write a well-structured introduction with a thesis and relevant examples or reasons supporting a position. 4. Use MLA format for documentation and works cited. 5. Explain the period of American Imperialism and its impact on today's foreign policy. 6. Use resources to assess domestic policies during the Cold War and post 9/11 terrorist attacks. 7. Use resources to present a debate on President Roosevelt's New Deal during The Great Depression and how elements of that plan were applied in part by President Barack Obama during the Great Recession. 8. Write a well-developed essay comparing American public opinion of two significant historical events, such as the use of two atomic bombs on Japanese civilians during the end of WWII with public opinion of the Jewish Holocaust.
Major Topics:	Note that this is high school level content: I. 1860 to 1900: Growth of Industry (lecture) A. Business and labor organizations 1. Increases in profit; working conditions and workers' benefits B. Growth of cities 1. Immigration: social, economic, political influence 2. Push towards redistribution of wealth II. Movement westward (lecture)

- A. Discovery of gold and other resources
- B. Push for settlement of land and the transcontinental railroad
- C. Impact of cattle ranching
- D. Displacement of Native Americans and living on reservations
- E. Racism and segregation
- F. The Capitalist market: Grangers and Populists

III. Progressive Era of the early 20th century (lecture)

- A. Immigration, urbanization, and progressive reform movements
- B. "Muckraking" journalism
- C. Presidential Progressivism of Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson
- D. US mobilization for and entry into WWI
- E. Free speech debates, labor conflicts, and racial tensions of post-WWI era

IV. Conquest, foreign relations, and the development of a modern military (lecture)

- A. Acquisition of Alaska and control of Hawaii
- B. Spoils of the Spanish-American War
- C. Relations with China and Japan
- D. Construction of Panama Canal
- E. World War I and the League of Nations

V. America in the second quarter of the 20th century (lecture)

- A. 1920s Republican policy and a less active government
 - 1. Immigration restrictions
- B. Crackdown on alternative political philosophies
 - 1. Socialists, anarchists, communists
- C. Women's rights
- D. Harlem Renaissance
- E. Prosperity of industry and struggling of agriculture
- F. Stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression
- G. Franklin Roosevelt: New Deal social programs and legacy

VI. Post World War I Diplomacy (lecture)

	A. Peace pacts and attempts at lasting peace B. Diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union C. Good Neighbor policy D. Japanese imperialism E. Italian and German totalitarianism F. Start of World War II, attack on Pearl Harbor, and battles in Europe and the Pacific, atomic bombing of Japan G. The Holocaust and internment of Japanese American citizens.
	VII. Post World War II (lecture) A. Conferences of Allied leaders and creation of the U.N. B. Change in attitude towards Soviet Union and spread of communism 1. Impact on diplomatic relations with nations around the world 2. Americas strategic response to communism C. Civil War in China and communist victory D. The Korean War and fear of nuclear war
	VIII. Mid-20th century in America (lecture) A. Presidents B. McCarthy era and the fear of communism C. Warren Court and the civil rights struggle D. John F. Kennedy and race to space E. Cultural changes: growth of suburbs and influence of television and news media F. The war in Vietnam
	IX. 1970 to 1993 (lecture) A. Presidents B. Changing attitude towards China C. Watergate crisis D. Camp David Accord of 1978 E. 1979 hostage crisis in Iran F. Fall of communism

	G. First Persian Gulf War X. 1993 to the present (lecture) A. Presidents and political climate B. The Balkan Wars C. Efforts for peace in the Middle East D. Terrorism: Overseas and on U.S. soil; war on terror E. U.S. involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq F. Scandals in the business world and deregulation G. Great Recession H. COVID-19 pandemic I. January 6, 2021, Insurrection
Total Lecture Hours:	15 to 150
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	15 to 150
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Prepare a PowerPoint presentation of 5 -10 minutes on the following: Who are the baby boomers? What is their impact on American politics, economics, and culture?
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	After seeing the films <i>Schindler's List</i> and <i>Hiroshima</i> in class, compose a five-paragraph essay comparing both German and American weapons of mass destruction. Use MLA style for format, parenthetical citation of works cited.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Create a chart, timeline, or poster illustrating the impact of the American Industrial Revolution on American society including economics, politics, and society as a whole. In a following class meeting, be prepared to present your findings in a small collaborative group setting. Participate in your group discussion to develop a consensus of information collected on the topic and complete a peer review, individually and as a group.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Essay Exams, Multiple Choice, Objective Exam, Presentation, Quizzes, Reading Reports, Term or Other Papers, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	

Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Kennedy, David and O'Mara, Margaret. <i>American Pageant, Volume I. 18th Edition</i> Cengage, 2024. OER Option: Corbett, P. Scott, Janssen, Volker, Lund, John M., Pfannestiel, Todd, Waskiewicz, Sylvie, and Vickery, Paul. <i>U.S. History</i> . OpenStax. 2024: https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history?Book%20details
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
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Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Matthew Kline
Date:	03/27/2024
Original Board Approval Date:	01/13/2025
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Matt Kline
Date:	03/06/2026
Last Board Approval Date:	05/20/2026
Effective Term:	FA 2026