STUDYWALKS · COURSE SYLLABUS

History of the United States II — High School Course with CLEP Preparation

The years since Reconstruction explain the country and the institutions people live with now.

CREDIT LABEL	HOURS GOAL	STUDYWALKS LEARNING HOURS	SUGGESTED OFFLINE HOURS
1.0 credit	**120 h**	**33.5 h**	**86.5 h**
high school, with the study plan	the 1.0-credit convention	measured runtime plus assessment time	reading, review and writing

33.5 h StudyWalks (7.9 h of lessons, 18.8 h of lectures, 6.8 h of quizzes and exams) + **86.5 h** suggested offline study = **120 h**. 890 lessons in 18 units; prepares for the CLEP History of the United States II exam.

High school credit is granted by the homeschool parent under the state's rules. StudyWalks supplies the record: hours, scores and this syllabus. The credit label is a suggestion; the parent makes the final call.

Course contents

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
1	**Reconstruction and Its Collapse, 1865–1877** Two plans · An amendment and an amnesty · Codes and a Bureau · Citizenship written down · President against Congress · The vote · What the words leave out · Who governed · Redemption and terror · The subject changes · The ending · The verdict	34	46 min (2 parts)
2	**Westward Expansion and Its Cost, c. 1840–1900** Two laws of 1862 · The picture and the motive · Who went · What free land cost · Tools, scale and water · Gold, silver, copper · The cattle kingdom · The Plains nations · Wars of the eighteen sixties · The Black Hills · Schools, a religion, a massacre · Allotment · Exclusion · The Southwest, and the line	39	50 min (2 parts)
3	**Industry, Invention, and Labour, c. 1870–1900** Invention, organised · Steel, and everyday machines · Carnegie · Two ways to grow · Holding it together · The financier · Railroads, and a verdict · What the work paid · The first organisers · One big union · Craft unions · Homestead and Pullman · Learning to consume	47	57 min (2 parts)
4	**The Growing Cities, c. 1870–1900** Outward and upward · The other half · Settlements · North from the South · The new immigration · Nativists and bosses · The boss · Leisure and class · Schools and boulevards · One science, two conclusions · Describing the new America	32	43 min (2 parts)
5	**Politics in the Gilded Age, c. 1870–1900** Thin majorities · A gunshot, then a reform · The tariff · First regulation · Gold, silver, and two Shermans · Grievances and the Grange · The alliances and the party · Depression, a march, and a ruling · Eighteen ninety-six · The fade, and a verdict	30	41 min (2 parts)

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
6	**The Progressive Movement, c. 1890–1920** The muckrakers · Aims and amendments · Fire and factory law · A laboratory and a crusade · The radicals · Suffrage · Black leadership, two strategies · Roosevelt · Taft, and nineteen twelve · Wilson's New Freedom · Who it was for	41	50 min (2 parts)
7	**Empire and Foreign Policy, 1893–1914** Reasons to look abroad · Markets, missions, a navy · Hawaii · Cuba and the Maine · The war · The peace · The Philippines · China · The canal · A police power · The verdict	32	41 min (2 parts)
8	**The Great War and After, 1914–1919** Moral diplomacy in Mexico · Neutral, in two senses · Submarines and a telegram · Declaring war · Raising an army · Organising for war · Persuasion and payment · Liberty in wartime · Women's war · Service and backlash · Labour's bargain · Two amendments arrive · Into battle · The end of the fighting · The peace · The League · Two death tolls · Nineteen nineteen · Normalcy	67	1 h 21 min (3 parts)
9	**The Nineteen-Twenties, 1919–1929** The car · Screens, radio, heroes · The consumer economy · The quotas · Two trials · Old America answers · The new woman · Harlem · Doubters and bootleggers · Harding · Coolidge · Treaties and an election · Whose twenties	48	1 h (2 parts)
10	**The Crash and the Hoover Years, 1929–1932** The bull market and the crash · Why it spread · Hoover's answer · Aid that ran upward · The Bonus Army · Hardship · Injustice and removal · The Dust Bowl · Songs and screens · Hoover abroad · Hoover at home · Causes and verdict	48	59 min (2 parts)
11	**Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932–1941** Before the presidency · The long winter · Saving the banks · Reform · Farms and forests · The line crossed · A valley remade · Repeal, and a partial recovery · The critics · The Second New Deal · Labour's charter · The Court · Allotment ended · What the new policy returned · Recession and reaction · Black Americans and the New Deal · Women in the New Deal · The verdicts	60	1 h 17 min (3 parts)
12	**The Second World War, c. 1938–1945** Fascism and militarism · Neutral in name · Into the war · The home front · A march, and an order · Double V · Migration and riots · Service and labour · Internment · Europe first · The second front · The Holocaust · The closed door · Victory in Europe · The Pacific · The bomb · Two judgements	56	1 h 13 min (3 parts)
13	**Post-War Prosperity and Cold War Fear, 1945–1960** Coming home · Truman at home · Containment · Nineteen forty-nine · Korea · Loyalty at home · Spies and a senator · Eisenhower's America · The image and the numbers · Sputnik and a warning · Screens and sounds · Two arcs · The legal arc · The mass arc · Resistance · Two questions of origin	63	1 h 18 min (3 parts)
14	**The Nineteen-Sixties, 1960–1968** A new kind of leader · Cuba · Caution at home, advisers abroad · The promise · The Great Society · Vietnam escalates · Students take the lead · Birmingham · The march and the law · Mississippi and Selma · Two styles · Panthers and riots · Loving, and the fields · Students · Women · Two closing questions	59	1 h 13 min (3 parts)

Unit	Title and lecture topics	Lessons	Lecture
15	**Fracture: Vietnam, Watergate, and After, 1968–1980** Red Power · Gay liberation · Women's gains · La Raza Unida · Nineteen sixty-eight · Nixon abroad, and a new vote · The environment · The economy stalls · Leaving Vietnam · Cambodia and the campuses · Checks on the war · The end of the war · The break-in · Hearings and tapes · The end of a presidency · The pardon and Ford · Carter at home · Carter abroad · Iran · Two closing questions	75	1 h 33 min (4 parts)
16	**From Cold War to Culture War, 1980–2000** A new majority · Supply side · Labour, growth, debt · The Religious Right · Drugs and prisons · AIDS and culture · Los Angeles and new arrivals · A cold warrior · Force abroad · Gorbachev and the summits · Bush's first years · The Soviet Union ends · The Gulf War · A New Democrat · Health care and gay rights · The Republican Congress · Two thousand · Two closing questions	57	1 h 11 min (3 parts)
17	**The Twenty-First Century, 2001–present** September eleventh · Afghanistan, and defence at home · Iraq · Detention and the long war · Bush at home · The crash · Inequality and immigration · Marriage · Climate, money, phones · Obama · Toward two thousand sixteen · The fifth time · Charlottesville and MeToo · Beyond the anchor · An election, and after · Two closing questions	62	1 h 17 min (3 parts)
18	**Capstone: The Cross-Cutting Themes, 1865–present** How to use this unit · Before the New Deal · The settlement · Contested, redrawn, returned · The twin, and the arc · Two traditions · The Progressive mixture · Between its critics · Middle ground and Great Society · The turn · The twin, and the arc	40	1 h 3 min (2 parts)

Assessment and grading

- **Unit quizzes.** 18 quizzes, 10 questions each, checked as the student goes, each answer with the lesson to review. Untimed; retakes are unlimited.
- **Mid exam.** 50 questions on units 1–9, drawn fresh each time and scored at the end with a breakdown by content area. Untimed; retakes are unlimited.
- **Final exam.** 120 questions, 90 minutes, on the whole course. Scored 20–80; 50 passes (80 of 120 correct, about 67%). Retakes are unlimited with a 24-hour wait, each a fresh draw.

Suggested composite grade

Part	Weight
Unit quizzes (average of best scores)	20%
Mid exam (best score)	20%
Final exam (percent correct)	60%

Suggested letter scale

Letter	Composite
A	90–100
B	80–89
C	70–79
D	60–69
F	below 60

Suggested; the parent sets the grade. A passing final is the completion standard for the course record.

Study plan

The 86.5 offline hours are spread over the units in proportion to each unit's StudyWalks time. For each unit: read the matching sections of *U.S. History (OpenStax); The American Yawp*, review the unit quiz misses, and write a one-page unit summary. Log the time as you go.

Unit	Title	StudyWalks	Offline, suggested	Unit total
1	Reconstruction and Its Collapse, 1865–1877	1 h 4 min	3 h 25 min	4 h 29 min
2	Westward Expansion and Its Cost, c. 1840–1900	1 h 11 min	3 h 50 min	5 h 1 min
3	Industry, Invention, and Labour, c. 1870–1900	1 h 22 min	4 h 25 min	5 h 47 min
4	The Growing Cities, c. 1870–1900	1 h	3 h 15 min	4 h 15 min
5	Politics in the Gilded Age, c. 1870–1900	57 min	3 h 5 min	4 h 2 min
6	The Progressive Movement, c. 1890–1920	1 h 12 min	3 h 50 min	5 h 2 min
7	Empire and Foreign Policy, 1893–1914	58 min	3 h 5 min	4 h 3 min
8	The Great War and After, 1914–1919	1 h 56 min	6 h 15 min	8 h 11 min
9	The Nineteen-Twenties, 1919–1929	1 h 25 min	4 h 35 min	6 h
10	The Crash and the Hoover Years, 1929–1932	1 h 25 min	4 h 35 min	6 h
11	Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932–1941	1 h 49 min	5 h 50 min	7 h 39 min
12	The Second World War, c. 1938–1945	1 h 43 min	5 h 35 min	7 h 18 min
13	Post-War Prosperity and Cold War Fear, 1945–1960	1 h 51 min	6 h	7 h 51 min
14	The Nineteen-Sixties, 1960–1968	1 h 45 min	5 h 40 min	7 h 25 min
15	Fracture: Vietnam, Watergate, and After, 1968–1980	2 h 13 min	7 h 10 min	9 h 23 min
16	From Cold War to Culture War, 1980–2000	1 h 42 min	5 h 30 min	7 h 12 min
17	The Twenty-First Century, 2001–present	1 h 50 min	5 h 55 min	7 h 45 min
18	Capstone: The Cross-Cutting Themes, 1865–present	1 h 24 min	4 h 30 min	5 h 54 min
Lessons and lectures		**26 h 47 min**	**86 h 30 min**	**113 h 17 min**
Quizzes, mid exam and final (stated time)		**6 h 48 min**	**—**	**6 h 48 min**

Unit times are the unit's lecture runtime plus its lessons at the course's measured average lesson length; totals can differ from the learning hours by rounding.

Sources

- **Anchor:** OpenStax, *U.S. History*, chapters 16–32. Revision dated April 23, 2026. CC BY-NC-SA 4.0
- **Witness 1:** *The American Yawp*, volume II, Stanford University Press. CC BY-SA
- **Witness 2:** *Digital History*, University of Houston. Free and independently authored.
- **Primary sources:** The National Archives, for constitutional wording and dates; the Avalon Project, Lillian Goldman Law Library, Yale Law School, for treaties and statutes; History Matters, George Mason University, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, for the documentary record.

StudyWalks finals are modeled on the CLEP exam blueprint in scope, format, and rigor. Scores are StudyWalks scores, not CLEP scores, and are not affiliated with or recognized by the College Board.

StudyWalks is a private educational site and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or connected to any government agency, the College Board, DSST, ACT, Inc., the National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT), or any testing or licensing body.

College credit for CLEP and DSST exams is set by each college. CLEP is administered by the College Board; DSST is administered by Prometric.

studywalks.com/c/history-of-the-united-states-ii/syllabus/