

# UNITED STATES HISTORY CURRICULUM

VINCENT LEGG

[james.legg@gcccd.edu](mailto:james.legg@gcccd.edu)

2021 / 2022

*Largely Mirrors CA State Framework & Grossmont UHSD Curriculum Guide.*

Topics to be covered and approximate pacing below  
(sequence is flexible to accommodate current events, elections, etc.):

Instructor will continue to be in contact with Paul Dautremont, head of Curriculum for Grossmont Union High School District, re. any new Social Science content for CC.

Grading: Standard scale: 90+ = A, 80+ = B, 70+ = C, 60+ = D and below 60% = F  
There is no category weighting (i.e. making all tests = double all homework, etc.)

Laptops / Chromebook are fine for note-taking in class. Laptops are not to be used for social media or any other use, in-class, unless specifically requested by instructor.

## **August / September 2021**

Intro to class

Expectations, procedures

General historical perspective...

Roanoke (1584)

Jamestown (1607)

Plymouth Rock (1620)

Enlightenment and the rise of democratic ideas re. the USA

Great Awakenings religious revivals

Review origins of the American Revolution, the 'divinely' bestowed

Declaration of Independence / Jefferson

Review Constitution, Bill of Rights—the philosophy behind them and historical significance (incl. Voltaire)

Federalism--federal versus state authority and growing democratization. (doesn't say 'Federalism' anymore)

Louisiana Purchase / Lewis & Clark

Current events / trying to understand the 2018 "mid-term" election and evaluating media coverage

## **October 2021**

Origin of the LDS (1830)

The Alamo (1836)

The Donner Party (1846)

Civil War (*briefly review effects of*) and Reconstruction

(incl. John Brown, Jefferson Davis, Ft. Sumter, Antietam, draft riots, etc.)

Industrial revolution moves to U.S., growth of USA's influence in the world

Industrialization re. living and working conditions, (*incl food safety in*

*Upton Sinclair's The Jungle... contrast with Eric Schlosser's recent Fast Food Nation*)

Growth of cities linked by industry & trade, development of cities divided re. race, ethnicity, and class.

"Americanization movement." effects

Susan B. Anthony (chronologically here...Cal standards places later)

Urban political machines & responses to them by immigrants and middle-class reformers.

Corporate mergers / Trusts / Cartels

Economic and political policies of industrial leaders.

Economic development of USA re. trade & geography

Social Darwinism / Social Gospel (*bios of William Graham Sumner, Billy Sunday, Dwight L. Moody*).

Significance of 1915's Birth of a Nation

Populists—programs & effects

Progressives (*railroad regs. transport, Children's Bureau, 16th Amendment, T. Roosevelt, Hiram Johnson*).

Religious groups—contributions re. USA civic principles & social reform movements

Civil & Human rights...re. religious groups

Religious revivals / leaders: First & Second “Great Awakenings,” Civil War revivals, Social Gospel Mov. Christian liberal theology in 19<sup>th</sup> cent., 2nd Vatican Council, rise of Christian fundamentalism (*current*)

Religious intolerance in USA (*re. LDS [“Mormons,” esp. Brigham Young] Catholics & Jews*).

Religious pluralism (*esp. Cal.*) from 20<sup>th</sup> cent. immigration

Religious liberty / Establishment & Free Exercise clauses of 1st Amendment, sep. of church & state.

## **November 2021**

USA becomes a 20<sup>th</sup> cent. power...Whoo-hoo!!

Open Door policy.

Spanish-American War / U.S. in S. Pacific.

Panama Revolution & Canal...did Jimmy Carter later give away “our” canal?

T. Roosevelt's “Big Stick,” W. Taft's “Dollar Diplomacy,” W. Wilson's Moral Diplomacy (*speeches*)

WWI (*its effect on the USA*) *Esp. Barbara Tuchman's Zimmerman Telegram...music, Flanders Field poem*

Post WWI (*USA up, Great Britain down*) (State standard says “WWII”)

Presidencies of Harding, Coolidge, & Hoover.

Palmer Raids

Marcus Garvey's "back-to-Africa" movement, KKK, immigration quotas

ACLU, NAACP, & ADL respond.

18th Amendment / Volstead Act (*Prohibition*).

19th Amendment / women's roles

Harlem Renaissance / music. “Strange Fruit” (*esp. N. Hurston, & L. Hughes*).

Radio / movies (*worldwide pop culture*)

Mass production, cities, tech (*cars in general, Ford's Model T specifically, electricity*), new prosperity.

## **December 2021**

Federal Reserve (*reasons for in '20s*).

St. Valentine's Day Massacre, significance

A. Philip Randolph

Early radio

Stock Market crash

Great Depression (*causes, “solutions”*) include “Dust Bowl” im. to Cal. (& *impacts*) *Grapes of Wrath*

New Deal / more fed gov since '30s (*WPA, SS, NLRB, TVA, CCVP, Bonneville Dam etc.*).

Glass-Steagal...in the 1930s vs. modern revival

Organized labor, AFL-CIO to postindustrial, multinational econ, incl UFW in Cal.

The Lemon Grove Incident (1931)

**Review for COMPREHENSIVE Final Exam**

<End of first semester>

\*\*\*\*\*

## January 2022

WWII...esp. what led to Pearl Harbor

U.S/ Allied strategy, re. Midway, Normandy, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, & Battle of the Bulge.

Roles / sacrifices of ind. Amer soldiers (*Tuskegee Airmen, 442nd Reg. Combat team, Navajo Code Talkers*).

Roosevelt's WWII foreign policy (*esp. "Four Freedoms" speech*).

Japanese War Crimes

Internment of Japanese Americans (*esp. Fred Korematsu v. USA*) also German & Ital. resident aliens;

USA response to Hitler's atrocities re. Jews and others...focus on (*Semitic*) New York Times coverage

Women in mil. prod.; Roles / growing political demands of Afr-Americans.

Aviation, weaponry, comm., & medicine development

Truman Doctrine

WWII impact on location of American industry / use of resources.

A-bombs on Hiroshima & Nagasaki...the decision...would Japan have ever surrendered otherwise?

Marshall Plan / massive aid to W. Europe to rebuild after WWII... helps U.S. economy.

How does "nation-building" in Afghanistan & Iraq compare to Marshall Plan?

## February 2022

Post WWII economy--more service sector, white collar, & prof. jobs in bus. and gov.

Mexican immigration: affect on agri economy (*esp. Cal.*)

Truman's labor policy...congressional reaction to it.

Fed gov spending on ed. (*incl Cal Master Plan*), defense, welfare, and interest on the national debt.

Increased powers of the Pres. re. Great Depression, World War II, & Cold War. Bush Jr. today?

Environmental regions of North America, their relationship to local economies,

and the origins and Tech since 1945, (*esp.computers, comm, medicine, agricultural*)

Pop culture, (*origins & geo diffusion: jazz, etc. pro sports, architectural and artistic styles*).

## March 2022

### U.S. foreign policy since World War II.

Berlin blockade, airlift & wall

Establishment of U.N., IDHR, IMF, World Bank, GATT to shape mod Europe...peace & int. order.

Military alliances (*NATO, SEATO*), to deter comm.. & give security during Cold War / containment:

McCarthyism Alger Hiss, blacklisting

Truman Doctrine, Berlin Blockade, Korean War, Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis

Atomic testing in American West, MAD ("*mutual assured destruction*"), disarmament policies

Vietnam War (Gulf of Tonkin, protest, Kent State)

Latin American policy

Protests during Vietnam, "nuclear freeze" movement ...anti-war movement in 1970 vs. 2003

Reagan administration re. end of Cold War. Secret strategy?

What exactly was Iran-Contra and who was held responsible?

U.S. Middle East policy (*strategy, political, & econ*) re. Gulf War I (1991)

USA / Mexico 20th cent relations, (*econ, political, immigration, enviro*)

## April 2022

African Americans—quest for civil rights, Roosevelt's ban on racial discrimination in def. indust--1941.

African Americans WWII service pushed Truman to end segregation in the armed forces in 1948.

Civil rights, incl *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, and *California Proposition 209*.

Collaboration: African-American & white civil rights lawyers to end racial segregation in higher education.

Civil rights advocates (e.g., A. Philip Randolph, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcom X, Thurgood Marshall, James Farmer, Rosa Parks)

MLK's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" and "I Have a Dream" speech.

Emmett Till – death in 1955, new autopsy in 2005

Diffusion of civil rights movement from churches / rural South & urban North, incl the res. to racial desegregation in Little Rock and Birmingham...how did these advances help Native Amer, Asian Amer, & Hispanic Amer for civil rights and equal opportunities?

Cold War tension & politics

Bay of Pigs

Gulf of Tonkin

1964 Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act of 1965 & 24th Amend, equality of access to education etc.

## May 2022

Women's rights / Elizabeth Stanton & Susan Anthony 19<sup>th</sup> Amend to 1960s, dif views of female roles

Immigration policy--changes (*Immigration Act of 1965*) and successor acts changing nation

Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton

(*speeches re. education, civil rights, economic policy, environmental policy*).

Women –more in labour force...changing face of family

Moon Landing in 1969

Watergate affair / All The President's Men--constitutional crisis--

Environmental conservation, expansion national parks, enviro v. property rights?

"Persistence of poverty" re. welfare reform, health insurance reform, other social policies.

Three Mile Island (1979)

## June 2022

Government response to demographic and social changes such as population shifts to the suburbs, racial concentrations in the cities, Frostbelt-to-Sunbelt migration, international migration,

Decline of family farms, increases in out-of-wedlock births, and drug abuse.

Let's talk about something nice & cheerful, so we don't end the year ☺ ☹ on the decline of family farms, increases in out-of-wedlock births, and drug abuse. Maybe we'll talk about puppies today.

☺ ☹

**Review for COMPREHENSIVE Final Exam**

<End of second semester>