

## **FB/CCU U.S. HISTORY COURSE DESCRIPTION / LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

In the pages that follow, the Focus Questions found at the beginning of each chapter in *America: A Narrative History* have been reformulated into a set of Learning Objectives for the U.S. History survey course. After reading each chapter of the textbook and attending class or lecture, students should be able to meet these learning objectives, which have been worded to emphasize action verbs like “explain,” “understand,” or “summarize.” Use these with students during your office hours to identify learning goals or develop study checklists, or use them as part of your own assessment efforts to evaluate student learning outcomes. Refer students to the *America: A Narrative History* Student Site to review and access more material. For students having particular difficulty with reading comprehension, refer them to the Guided Reading and Primary Source Exercises found in the Norton Coursepack.

### **CHAPTER ONE**

1. Understand the diversity of societies in the Americas before the arrival of the Europeans.
2. Explain the major developments in Europe that enabled the Age of Exploration.
3. Understand how the Europeans were able to conquer and colonize the Americas.
4. Explain how the Columbian Exchange between the “Old” and “New” Worlds affected both societies.
5. Analyze the ways in which the Spanish form of colonization shaped North American history.

### **CHAPTER TWO**

1. Identify Britain’s reasons for establishing colonies in North America.
2. Examine the similarities and differences between the various regions and colonies prior to 1700.
3. Describe how British colonists and Native Americans adapted to each other’s presence.
4. Examine the roles indentured servants and slaves played in colonial development.
5. Explain how English colonies developed into the most influential of the age.

### **CHAPTER THREE**

1. Discuss the major factors that contributed to the demographic changes in the English colonies during the eighteenth century.
2. Examine the roles of women in English colonial society.
3. Analyze the differences and similarities between the societies and economies of the southern, middle, and New England colonies.
4. Explain how race-based slavery developed during the seventeenth century and the ways it impacted the social and economic development of colonial America.
5. Identify how the Enlightenment and Great Awakening influenced American thought.

### **CHAPTER FOUR**

1. Explain the similarities and differences in the manners in which the English and French managed their North American colonies.
2. Identify the causes of the French and Indian War and how the English victory affected the British colonies in North America.
3. Explain how England sought to strengthen its control over its colonies after the French and

Indian War and how the colonists responded.

4. Analyze the underlying factors in the events of the 1770s that led to American independence.

#### **CHAPTER FIVE**

1. Identify the challenges faced by the Americans and the British forces in the Revolutionary War, and identify their respective military strategies.
2. Understand the Revolutionary War's major turning points.
3. Analyze the ways in which the American Revolution also functioned as a civil war.
4. Explain how the American Revolution served as an "engine" for political and social change.
5. Assess the extent to which the American Revolution was a social revolution in matters of race and gender.

#### **CHAPTER SIX**

1. Identify the achievements and shortcomings of the Confederate government and how they contributed to the creation of the Constitution.
2. Analyze the political innovations that the 1787 Constitutional Convention developed for the new nation.
3. Explain the nature of the debates surrounding the ratification of the Constitution and how these debates were resolved.
4. Identify the ways that the Federalists and Republicans differed in their visions for the United States in the 1790s.
5. Examine how attitudes toward Great Britain and France shaped American politics in the late eighteenth century.

#### **CHAPTER SEVEN**

1. Identify the major domestic political developments that took place during Thomas Jefferson's administration.
2. Describe the foreign events that impacted the United States during the Jefferson and Madison administrations.
3. Examine the primary causes of the American decision to declare war on Great Britain in 1812.
4. Understand the ways in which European affairs complicated the internal political and diplomatic problems of the new United States.
5. Explain why Madison and Jefferson led the opposition to Hamilton's policies.

#### **CHAPTER EIGHT**

1. Understand how the explosive growth of industry, agriculture, and transportation transformed America in the mid-nineteenth century.
2. Identify several inventions of the mid-nineteenth century that improved America economically and socially.
3. Examine how immigration had changed by the mid-nineteenth century.
4. Explain the emergence of early labor unions.

#### **CHAPTER NINE**

1. Examine how American economic policies developed after the War of 1812 reflected the nationalism of the era.

2. Examine the Era of Good Feelings.
3. Distinguish among various issues that contributed to sectionalism.
4. Describe how the Supreme Court under John Marshall strengthened the federal government and the national economy.
5. Analyze the main diplomatic achievements of the Monroe Doctrine.

## CHAPTER TEN

1. Analyze the extent to which Andrew Jackson's election initiated a new era in American politics.
2. Summarize Jackson's attitude toward federal involvement in the economy.
3. Explain how Jackson responded to the nullification controversy.
4. Describe what happened to the Native Americans living east of the Mississippi River by 1840.
5. Explain the emergence of a new party system of Democrats and Whigs.

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

1. Describe the diversity of the Old South's economy, and identify its unifying feature.
2. Explain the distinctive culture of the Old South and why even southern whites who did not hold slaves defended the "peculiar institution."
3. Recognize the events that led to the anti-slavery movement and examine how white southerners responded to it.
4. Summarize how enslaved people responded to their bondage during the antebellum period and compare this to how free persons of color fit into southern society.

## CHAPTER TWELVE

1. Explain how the practice of religion in America changed during the early nineteenth century.
2. Describe the distinguishing characteristics of American literature during the antebellum period.
3. Identify the goals of the social-reform movement.
4. Characterize the political and social status of women during the early nineteenth century.
5. Describe the emergence of the anti-slavery movement.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

1. Recognize the chief issues in national politics in the 1840s.
2. Explain why settlers migrated west, and describe the conditions they faced.
3. Examine why Texas declared independence from Mexico in 1836 and why many Americans were reluctant to accept it as a new state in the Union.
4. Identify the causes of the Mexican War.
5. Identify the territories that the United States gained from the Mexican War, and explain why this acquisition was controversial.

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

1. Characterize the members of the free-soil coalition and review the arguments they used to demand that slavery not spread to the territories.

2. Examine why the issue of statehood for California precipitated a crisis for the Union.
3. Summarize the major elements of the Compromise of 1850.
4. Explain how the Kansas-Nebraska Act initiated the collapse of the second-party system.
5. Understand why the southern states seceded.

#### **CHAPTER FIFTEEN**

1. Outline the events that led to the firing of the first shots of the Civil War.
2. Summarize the major military strategies of the Civil War.
3. Outline the war's effects on the home front in both the North and the South.
4. Explain why Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.
5. Describe how most enslaved people became free in the United States.

#### **CHAPTER SIXTEEN**

1. Distinguish among the different approaches to the Reconstruction of the Confederate states.
2. Characterize the response of white southerners to the end of the old order in the South.
3. Assess the extent to which blacks functioned as citizens in the reconstructed South.
4. Examine the main issues in national politics in the 1870s.
5. Understand why Reconstruction ended in 1877.

#### **CHAPTER SEVENTEEN**

1. Determine the factors that fueled growth in the post-Civil War economy.
2. Examine the roles played in commerce during the Gilded Age by leading entrepreneurs like John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, and J. Pierpont Morgan.
3. Identify the major groups that composed the labor force in the Gilded Age and summarize their main grievances.
4. Explain the factors and events that led to the rise of labor unions.

#### **CHAPTER EIGHTEEN**

1. Understand the ways that life in the South changed politically, economically, and socially after the Civil War.
2. Explain the influence on Native Americans of white settlement in the West.
3. Describe the experiences of farmers, cowboys, and miners in the West.
4. Explain how mining affected the development of the West.
5. Assess the importance of the concept of the frontier to America's political and diplomatic development.

#### **CHAPTER NINETEEN**

1. Determine the factors that accounted for urbanization in America.
2. Explain the ways that the "new immigration" changed America at the end of the nineteenth century.
3. Identify new forms of mass entertainment that emerged by 1900.
4. Understand the impact of Darwinian thought on the social sciences.

## **CHAPTER TWENTY**

1. Understand the motivations behind America's "new imperialism."
2. Explain the role of religion as a motive for American territorial expansion.
3. Determine the causes of the War of 1898.
4. Describe what America gained from the War of 1898.
5. Summarize the main achievements of President Roosevelt's foreign policy.

## **CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE**

1. Characterize the progressives and describe their major causes.
2. Identify the muckrakers and examine the impact they had on society.
3. Describe the progressive programs of Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, and summarize the goals of their respective programs.
4. Understand the significance of the election of 1912.
5. Distinguish the progressivism of Woodrow Wilson from that of Roosevelt.

## **CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO**

1. Explain Woodrow Wilson's reasons for involving the United States in Mexico's revolutionary turmoil.
2. Understand why the United States entered the Great War in Europe.
3. Describe how Wilson promoted his peace plan.
4. Examine the Senate's reasons for refusing to ratify the Treaty of Versailles.
5. Summarize the consequences of the Great War at home and abroad.

## **CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE**

1. Recognize the major factors that gave rise to the nativism of the 1920s.
2. Describe the Jazz Age and its implications.
3. Examine how new social trends in the 1920s challenged traditional attitudes.
4. Define modernism and describe its influence on American culture.

## **CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR**

1. Examine the extent to which the policies of the 1920s were a rejection of progressivism.
2. Recognize the effect that isolationism and the peace movement had on American politics in the interwar period.
3. Explain why the 1920s were an era of conservatism.
4. Identify the driving force behind the growth of the American economy in the 1920s.
5. Understand the causes of the stock market crash and the Great Depression.

## **CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE**

1. Summarize the immediate challenges facing Franklin Delano Roosevelt in March 1933.
2. Recognize the lasting effects of the New Deal legislation.
3. Explain why the New Deal drew criticism from both conservatives and liberals.
4. Examine how the New Deal expanded the federal government's authority.
5. Describe the major cultural changes of the 1930s.

## **CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX**

1. Identify the major events leading up to the outbreak of the Second World War in Europe and in Asia.
2. Describe how the Second World War affected American society.
3. Explain how the Allied forces won the war in Europe.
4. Understand how the United States gained the upper hand in the Pacific sphere.
5. Recognize the efforts the Allies made to shape the postwar world.

## **CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN**

1. Understand the emergence of the cold war.
2. Describe how Harry Truman responded to the Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe.
3. Summarize Truman's Fair Deal.
4. Review the background of the Korean War, and explain how the United States became involved.
5. Recognize the roots of McCarthyism.

## **CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT**

1. Explain why the U.S. economy grew rapidly in the period after the Second World War.
2. Assess the extent to which conformity was the main characteristic of society in the 1950s.
3. Describe the image of the family in the postwar period and assess how realistic the image was.
4. Summarize the main characteristics of Dwight D. Eisenhower's "dynamic conservatism."
5. Explain the emergence of the civil rights movement in the 1950s.
6. Understand the factors that shaped American foreign policy in the 1950s.

## **CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE**

1. Outline the goals of John F. Kennedy's New Frontier program, and assess its degree of success.
2. Describe the aim of Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society program, and evaluate its effectiveness.
3. Summarize the achievements of the civil rights movement by 1968.
4. Explain why the United States became increasingly involved in Vietnam.
5. Understand how and why Kennedy attempted to combat communism in Cuba.

## **CHAPTER THIRTY**

1. Characterize the social rebellion and struggles for civil rights in the 1960s and 1970s.
2. Describe how the war in Vietnam came to an end.
3. Summarize the Watergate scandal and explain how it led to Nixon's resignation.
4. Explain why President Ford issued a pardon to Nixon.
5. Understand "stagflation."

## **CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE**

1. Explain the rise of Ronald Reagan and Republican conservatism.
2. Describe the Iran-Contra affair and what it revealed about the nature of the executive branch.

3. Examine the factors that led to the end of the cold war.
4. Characterize the economy and society in the eighties.
5. Determine the causes of the Gulf War.

## **CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO**

1. Describe the change in demographics in the United States between 1980 and 2010.
2. Explain the factors that led to the Democratic resurgence of the early nineties and the Republican landslide of 1994.
3. Explain the surge and decline of financial markets in the nineties and the early twenty-first century.
4. Recognize the consequences of the rise of global terrorism in the early twenty-first century.
5. Understand the significance of the 2008 presidential election.