

American History Instructional Focus

In this course, which is the second part of a two-year study of U.S. history that begins in Grade 8, students study the history of the United States since Reconstruction to the present. Broad based concepts of conflict, change/reform, migration/immigration, relationships, interdependence, and innovation create the central organization of study. Students use critical-thinking skills, including explaining and applying different methods that historians use to interpret the past.

Subject specific content focuses on political, economic and social events and issues; influence of geographic factors on major events; the impact of constitutional issues on American society and efforts to expand the democratic process; relationship between the arts and the times; and the impact of technological innovations.

The unit themes for Grade 11 are based on the subject specific concepts which intertwine with the broad based concepts. Each unit includes enduring understandings and essential TEKS questions, which stem from the concepts and expectations of the TEKS.

The emphasis at Grade 11 is for students to develop a conceptual understanding of the United States and its place in the world. The purpose is for students to gain an overview of the relationship of events and issues that created a democratic society. Therefore, points of view and interpretation of historical context as well as current events are vital to the understanding of American society. The use of media, the internet, and a study of primary and secondary sources are vital links to the Grade 11 classroom.