

## **Modern America**

**1980-2016**

*It is always difficult to tell the story from within the story, but here we are nonetheless. Our final unit will witness the end of the Cold War and the rise of a global war on terrorism. The globalization of the world's culture and economy have had a powerful impact at home in America and on our role around the globe. Discussions about the appropriate balance between our liberty as individuals and our responsibility to the common good remain, this time challenged by new technology and by new voices. The last week or so of this unit should serve as a capstone to the course in its entirety, and you should leave for the summer with an understanding of how the stories we've explored all year connect to the America you know today.*

**Essays:** There will be no essays for this unit. (Although one will appear on the final exam.) Instead, you will answer a series of short answer questions asking you to make connections between the issues of today and things you've learned about throughout the course. (Both American History A and American History B)

**Describe the transformation of the American economy in the late 20<sup>th</sup>/early 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

- Describe the impact that the decline of manufacturing has had on life in America, including how people live, where people live, and what people now do for a living.
- Explain the economic plan known as "Reaganomics," and discuss its impact on modern America. (Specifically consider budget cuts, tax cuts, increased defense spending, recession and recovery, and the national debt.)
- Explain the logic (and describe the impact) of economic deregulation.
- Explain the basic details of global trade agreements like NAFTA, CAFTA, and GATT.
  - Explain how some Americans have been HELPED by global trade (and identify who they are.)
  - Explain how some Americans have been HARMED by global trade (and identify who they are.)
- Discuss the rise of the internet and the digital age, and its effect on life in the modern world.

**Describe the transformation of American politics in the late 20<sup>th</sup>/early 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

- Describe the goals of the new conservative movement in America.
- Assess the impact of Evangelical Christianity on American Politics, including the role of the "moral majority."
- Analyze the causes and consequences of the increasing political partisanship in American politics.
- Discuss the changing political landscape and its effect on relationships between the branches of government. (Consider recent Supreme Court decisions, "Obamacare," regional issues, etc.)

**Describe the transformation of American Society in the late 20<sup>th</sup>/early 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

- Summarize the debate between Free Market Economy vs. Social Democracy on the following points:
  - Health Care
  - Education
  - Urban Decline
  - Compare the modern political platforms to those of FDR, Johnson, Nixon, or Reagan.
  - Welfare, tax, and entitlement reform.
- Describe each of the following issues, and explain how each changed America:
  - AIDS
  - Drug abuse (particularly the rise in popularity of crack cocaine) and the War on Drugs.
  - Continued equal rights struggles. (Women's rights, LGBTQ rights, etc.)
- Discuss the racial divisions in modern America.
  - Compare the LA Riots of 1992, and compare them to the Northern Riots of the late 1960s and the recent issues in places like Ferguson MO and Baltimore MD.

### **How did America's role in the world change after the end of the Cold War?**

- Explain the events that led to Operation Desert Storm, describe what happened, and compare the Gulf War to previous conflicts.
- Discuss the role of the US as a global peacekeeper after the Cold War in places like Somalia, the Balkans, Haiti, and the Middle East.

### **Discuss the responses to global terrorism after 9/11.**

- Describe what happened on 9/11, how and why that happened, and how the 9/11 attacks led to wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Describe the nature of the War on Terrorism, and compare it to previous conflicts, and compare the policies of Presidents Bush and Obama.
- The War on Terror has created some controversy in 21<sup>st</sup> century America. Explain the debate surrounding issues such as freedom vs. security, use of American troops, use of new technology (like drones & such), the treatment of suspected terrorists.
- Explain US involvement with Arab Spring in general, and with unintended consequences of Arab Spring such as ISIS.

Date	Topic	Targets & Objectives	Homework
Fri 5/11	The 1980s	<p>Describe and evaluate the political changes of the 1980s. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Christian Right</li><li>• Increasing political partisanship</li><li>• New Conservatives</li></ul> <p>Describe and evaluate the economic changes of the 1980s. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The decline of manufacturing</li><li>• "Reaganomics"</li><li>• Deregulation</li></ul> <p>Describe and evaluate the social changes of the 1980s. Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AIDS</li><li>• Crack</li><li>• Cable TV and MTV</li><li>• Issues of race and gender</li></ul>	25.1-3
Mon 5/14	The End of the Cold War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain the impact of Mikhail Gorbachev and his policies of <i>Glasnost</i> and <i>Perestroika</i>.</li><li>• Explain why the Soviet Union declined in the 1980s, and how communism collapsed in Eastern Europe.</li><li>• Compare China in the late 1980s to the communist powers of Europe. (with particular attention to Tiananmen Square.)</li><li>• Explain the impact of the Cold War on Latin American nations like Nicaragua, Grenada, and Panama.</li><li>• Briefly explain what happened in the Iran-Contra Scandal.</li></ul>	25.4
Tues 5/15	80s wrap-up		

Wed 5/16	The 90s at Home	<p>Discuss the social, political, economic, and cultural conditions (and changes) in America during the 1990s.</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Internet</li> <li>● The rise of “free trade”</li> <li>● The LA Riots</li> <li>● Political Scandals</li> </ul>	26.1 (860-865)
Thu 5/17	Post-Cold War foreign Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explain the events that led to Operation Desert Storm, describe what happened, and compare the Gulf War to previous conflicts.</li> <li>● How did our foreign policy goals change after the Cold War, but before 9/11?</li> </ul>	
Fri 5/18	Economic Issues in Modern America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explain the issues facing the American health care system.</li> <li>● Discuss and evaluate both the ACA (Obamacare) and the AHCA.</li> </ul>	
Mon 5/21	Economic Issues in Modern America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explain how/why the economic crash of 2008 happened.</li> <li>● Compare the “Great Recession” of the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century with the Great Depression.</li> </ul>	
Tue 5/22	Economic Issues in Modern America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explain the basic details of global trade agreements like NAFTA, CAFTA, and GATT.</li> <li>● Explain how some Americans have been HELPED by global trade (and identify who they are.)</li> <li>● Explain how some Americans have been HARMED by global trade (and identify who they are.)</li> </ul>	
Wed 5/23	Social Issues in Modern America	Explore current racial issues in America, and compare them to those of the 50s and 60s.	
Thurs 5/24	Social Issues in Modern America	Explore current racial issues in America, and compare them to those of the 50s and 60s.	26.2
Fri 5/25	Social Issues in Modern America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gender Issues in Modern America</li> <li>● The modern LGBTQ Movement</li> </ul>	
Mon 5/28	Memorial Day		

Tues 5/29	War on Terrorism	Explain how each of the following relate to the War on Terrorism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● US role in the Middle East before 1991.</li> <li>● The Gulf War</li> <li>● 9/11</li> <li>● The war in Iraq and Afghanistan</li> <li>● Responses to Arab Spring</li> <li>● The rise of ISIS/ISIL</li> </ul>	
Wed 5/30	War on Terrorism	Consider the following, and discuss the new issues and concerns in the US raised by the War on Terror. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The USA PATRIOT Act</li> <li>● Edward Snowden</li> <li>● Wikileaks</li> <li>● Domestic surveillance</li> <li>● Guantanamo Bay</li> </ul>	26.1 (865-868)
Thu 5/31	War on Terrorism	Explain how the War on Terror has impacted American foreign policy.	
Fri 6/1		1980-Present Test	
Mon 6/4		Exam Review	
Tue 6/5		Exam Review	
Wed 6/6		1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> hour exams	
Thu 6/7		3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> hour exams	
Fri 6/8		5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Hour exams	