

Making Modern America

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Course Description

How has the past century of American history shaped the political and economic landscape of the early twenty-first century? What are the historical roots of contemporary political and social movements, business practices, and global flows of people, capital, and ideas? How can we use our historical knowledge to understand and address present-day challenges? With these questions in mind, this course explores key moments and people in the history of the United States from the end of World War I to the present.

The course is organized both chronologically and thematically, performing a deep, evidence-based study of particular events and people in recent US history. The broader topics featured in this course include

- The Evolving Role of Government
- Grassroots Activism
- Partisan Political Change
- Technology as a Product and Shaper of Society
- Changing Patterns of Production and Consumption
- Migration and Immigration,
- Financial Systems and Global Markets

Lecture Videos

This course consists of approximately 12 hours of instruction presented by Professor O'Mara, split into lecture videos ranging from 19 minutes to 37 minutes in length. Below are the lecture titles and major themes as identified by Professor O'Mara. The videos provide the content needed to answer the course quizzes.

1. "The Roaring 1920s" (2 videos)
2. "The Great Crisis and New Deal" (2 videos)

3. “The Making of a Superpower” (2 videos)
4. “The Early Cold War” (2 videos)
5. “The Business of Suburbia” (2 videos)
6. “The Military-Industrial Complex” (2 videos)
7. “The Revolution Will Be Televised” (2 videos)
8. “The Stagflating ’70s” (2 videos)
9. “Reaganomics” (2 videos)
10. “Clintonomics” (2 videos)
11. “America Online” (2 videos)
12. “History of the Present” (2 videos)

Note: Course lectures were originally recorded for the Gilder Lehrman Institute’s online graduate program. You can disregard references to assignments, other coursework, and the use of content in classrooms discussed in the videos. They are not part of the History U program.

Resources

Although not required as a part of the course, you can select the Resources link for information about the primary and secondary resources, videos, and websites referred to in the course if you want to learn more. All quiz questions are drawn from the lectures.

Quizzes

The purpose of the short quizzes is to review your knowledge of the material covered in the lectures. No outside reading is required to answer the questions successfully. After watching the video, select and complete the corresponding quiz to test your knowledge and qualify for the Certificate of Completion.

Certificate of Completion

After finishing your course by watching all of the lectures, scoring 80% or higher on each quiz, and completing the History U Course Feedback Survey, you will be able to download your certificate.

Please email historyschool@gilderlehrman.org with any questions.