



Northern York County School District

Curriculum Overview

Course: Vietnam War Survey

Grade Level: 10th, 11th, 12th

Development/Revision Date: February 2024

Length of Time: 90 Days

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the Vietnam War beginning with the relevant history of Southeast Asia, followed by the impact of European imperialism and colonialization on the region. The primary focus of the course will be American intervention prior to, during, and following armed conflict in Southeast Asia. In addition to the global and national impacts of the Vietnam War, this course will include viewing the war through the lens of those who experienced it, both in country and at home. The course examines the social, economic, ideological, diplomatic, and military aspects of the Vietnam War.

Course Objectives:

- Examine the history of animosity and conflict within Southeast Asia
- Understand the impact of French occupation and colonialism on Southeast Asia
- Analyze American intervention in Vietnam prior to armed conflict
- Investigate major military engagements and operations to include the personal impact on individuals
- Assess the anti-war movement and the coordinated effort to mislead the American people
- Analyze how the Vietnam War impacted America following the withdraw of all combat forces

Course Units:

- Unit 1 – History of Indochina
- Unit 2 – Enter America (1954-1965)
- Unit 3 – America's Apex (1966-1969)
- Unit 4 – American Withdrawal (1970-1975)

Related Standards:

Pennsylvania Department of Education Standards for History

- 8.1.12 A Evaluate chronological thinking
- 8.1.12 B Synthesize and evaluate historical sources
- 8.1.12 C Evaluate historical interpretation of events
- 8.1.12 D Synthesize historical research
- 8.3.12 A Identify and evaluate the political and cultural contributions of individuals and groups to United States history from 1890 to present.
- 8.3.12 B Identify and evaluate primary documents, material artifacts and historical sites important in United States history from 1890 to Present.
- 8.3.12 C Evaluate how continuity and change has influenced United States history from 1890 to Present.
- 8.3.12 D Identify and evaluate conflict and cooperation among social groups and organizations in the United States from 1890 to Present.

Pennsylvania Department of Education Academic Standards for Reading in History and Social Studies

- 8.5.11-12.A. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.
- 8.5.11-12.B. Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.
- 8.5.11-12.C. Evaluate various explanations for actions or events and determine which explanation best accords with textual evidence, acknowledging where the text leaves matters uncertain.
- 8.5.11-12.D. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including analyzing how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term over the course of a text
- 8.5.11-12.E. Analyze in detail how a complex primary source is structured, including how key sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text contribute to the whole.
- 8.5.11-12.F. Evaluate authors' differing points of view on the same historical event or issue by assessing the authors' claims, reasoning, and evidence.
- 8.5.11-12.G. Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.
- 8.5.11-12.H. Evaluate an author's premises, claims, and evidence by corroborating or challenging them with other information.
- 8.5.11-12.I. Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.

<p>Concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of Southeast Asia • Imperialism and colonialism • Covert American involvement in Vietnam • Overt American involvement in Vietnam • Escalation of the War in Vietnam • Anti-war movement and de-escalation • American withdraw from Vietnam 	<p>Competencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine China's exploitation and oppression of the Vietnamese people to include the Mandarin System and the class and cultural conflicts within Vietnam • Identify imperial powers of the of the 19th and 20th Centuries and analyze French colonialization of Indochina • Examine American involvement in Vietnam throughout the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations, specifically as it relates to the Cold War • Identify the causes and objectives of military operations associated with America's decision to fully commit to war in Vietnam • Analyze the reasons for escalation and compare the reality of the war on the ground in Vietnam with the information provided by the government, military, and media. • Examine the firsthand experiences of those involved in the Vietnam War both in country and at home • Evaluate the consequences of the Vietnam War for American citizens and America's global influence and status
<p>Learning Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary and Secondary Source examination • Collaborative Practice (Jigsaw, Class Discussions) • Written Responses • Guided Practice • Independent Practice 	<p>Performance Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays • Quizzes • Unit Tests • Unit Projects • Research Project
<p>Other Assessment Measures: Classwork, Homework, and online assessment tools</p>	
<p>Textbook/Primary Resource:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tragedy of Vietnam by Patrick Hearden • Vietnam: Echoes from the Wall • 10,000 Days of Thunder by Philip Caputo • Primary sources include <i>U.S. policy papers from the State Department, Defense Departments, and Pentagon; White House tapes/recordings; Congressional Records; Interviews with participants in the war</i> 	
<p>Supplemental Resource Materials: Online Resources, Ken Burns Vietnam, articles, books, biographies</p>	