

Course: Honors United States History  
Instructor: Dr. Pamela Smith

Course Description: Historical survey of American history from the Columbian Exchange to the present day with additional preparation for the SAT II US History Exam in May. **Students enrolled in Honors United States History are expected to sit for the SAT II US History exam in May as part of receiving credit in the class. Students not interested in sitting for this test SHOULD NOT enroll in Honors World History.**

#### Course Description and Philosophy

A wise man once said, “He who knows only his own generation remains always a child.” Understanding the past, in other words, helps you prepare for adulthood and for the future. The study of American history will promote an understanding of the historical forces that both limited and created options for people in the middle section of the North American continent that became the United States. You will explore the diversity of experiences among its many and varied peoples and explain the relationship of group interaction in the developing American culture—one that is both a melting pot and a salad bowl. You will identify major physical features and explain how they affected various aspects of American society such as Native American life, slavery, frontier life, farm life, industrialization, etc. This course will introduce you to a variety of Americans, some famous, some not-so-famous, and their roles in the ideas that have helped shape this nation. Students will accomplish these objectives by becoming familiar with the types of sources or evidence that historians use to develop a historical perspective. From colonial outpost to powerful world leader—I welcome you to United States history. **Students will complete a series of partial and complete practice SAT II tests to assess their readiness for the external exam in May. Based on those practice assessments the teacher or department chair may suggest that a student or students receive extra remediation during free or D blocks. The teacher or department chair have the discretion to suggest that students NOT take the exam (based on class or practice test performance), but otherwise it is expected that Honors United States History students WILL take the May exam as part of the class.**

#### Course Requirements

1. Test
2. Large 3-ring binder
3. Work done in blue or black pen
4. Materials for research project (poster board, for example)

#### Grading Procedure

Your trimester grade will be determined by the following combination of assessment measures.

Tests and Quizzes: 70%

Research Project and Written Assignments: 20%

Homework: 10%

The mid-year cumulative exam will count as 10% of the final grade.

The final cumulative exam will count as 15% of the final grade.

The school’s incomplete late work policy will be strictly enforced.

### Grading Scale

A- to A+	90-100
B- to B+	80-89
C- to C+	70-79
D- to D+	60-69
F	0- 59

### Homework Policy

Homework is a very critical component of the learning process. Students must observe the following policies to remain in good standing in this class.

1. There are usually daily homework (reading/writing) assignments.
2. **The first trimester research project is done in five parts over a period of approximately 5 weeks: topic selection, bibliography, outline, paper, and presentation with visual. You are responsible for making time in your schedule to prepare the research project. Directions for each component of the research project will be provided in a separate handout. In lieu of the second and third third long trimester research projects, students in Honors United States History will complete a shorter second trimester research project; during the third trimester, they will focus more heavily on SAT II practice exams and preparation and then complete the research project in the last weeks of class, after the May SAT II exam.**
3. Whether working on a short-term or extended assignment, it is imperative that you do it on a daily basis.
4. Starting in the second trimester, students in Honors United States History will begin using the hour block classes for practice SAT II exams. These exams will first count as written assignments, then quizzes, then eventually as full tests. (In other words, they will count for more towards your grade as the year progresses.) They will also be graded in accordance with the external scale.
5. Short-term assignments will be checked simply to see that they have been completed. Failure to do so results in assignment to Academic Help. A homework collection of these assignments should be stored in your 3-ring binder. This will be submitted for a more thorough evaluation after a test that covers the material. The school's grading policy regarding late or missing assignments, as outlined in the student handbook, will be strictly enforced.
6. Since class time is limited, all the material on the syllabus cannot be covered during lectures and class discussions. Students are responsible for all material assigned as textbook readings.
7. All submitted assignments must begin with the student's name, the date, the class title, and the period. Those assignments must be neat, complete, and written in blue or black ink. Of course, typed assignments are welcomed, but proper format must be followed. The research paper must be typed.
8. When returned, homework and tests are to be stored in your 3-ring binder.
9. Study groups can be effective. However, when a student submits an assignment, she is stating that the material submitted has been fully comprehended. Therefore, joint submissions and plagiarism are unacceptable.

### Classroom Policies

1. Daily prepared attendance is necessary.
2. You are solely responsible for any material covered or announcements made during your absence.
3. The school's attendance policy will be strictly enforced.
4. Inappropriate, disrespectful, or dishonest behavior is unacceptable.
5. Cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero for that assignment.

Welcome to the classroom. Please do not hesitate to ask questions—regardless of how simple you may perceive them to be. Work hard and take pride in all that you do.

Texts: Boyer, Paul; Clark, Clifford; and Hawley, Sandra McNair. The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2007.  
Davis, Kenneth C. Don't Know Much About History: Everything You Needed To Know About American History But Never Learned. NY: Harper Collins, 2003.  
Kaplan SAT Subject Test: US History 2009-2010 Edition. ISBN 978-1419552663 Kaplan Publishing.  
Cracking the SAT US & World History Subject Tests: 2009-2010 Edition. ISBN 978-0375429088 Princeton Review.

## Tentative United States History Schedule

### First Trimester

<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Sections</u>	<u>Topics</u>
1	1	All	Native Peoples of America
2	2	All	Rise of the Atlantic World
3	3	All	Colonial America
4	4	All	Bonds of Empire
5	5	All	Road to Revolution
6	6	All	Independence & Confederation
7	7	All	Federal Union
8	8	All	Jeffersonian Democracy, War of 1812, Nationalism
9	NA	All	Catch Up & Oral Presentations
10	9	All	Transformation of Society
11	10	All	Jacksonian Democracy

### Second Trimester

<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Sections</u>	<u>Topics</u>
1	11,12	All	Separate Societies; North and South <b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
2	13	All	Territorial Expansion and Sectional Conflict
3	14	All	Troubled Decade, Practice SAT II
4	15	All	Civil War <b>Winter Break</b>
5	16	All	Reconstruction
6	17	All	Winning the West, Practice SAT II
7	18	All	Rise of Industrial America
8	19	All	Immigration
9			<b>Review; Mid-Year Cumulative Exam</b>
10	20	All	Gilded Age Politics
11	21	All	Progressive Era; Shortened Oral Presentations
12	22	All	Imperialism, Practice SAT II

### Third Trimester

<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Sections</u>	<u>Topics</u>
1	22	All	World War One
2	23	All	Jazz Age, Practice SAT II <b>Spring Break</b>
3	24, 25	All	Great Depression; New Deal, WWII
4	25	All	WWII, Practice SAT II <b>Easter Break</b> Friday 4/2 – Monday 4/5
5	26	All	Cold War, Practice SAT II
6	27,28	All	The Fifties; The Sixties; Vietnam, Practice SAT II
7	29,30	All	Time of Upheaval; Ford to Reagan, Practice SAT II
8	31,32	All	Beyond the Cold War, <b>SAT II May 1, 2010</b>
9	NA		<b>Research Project</b>
10	NA		<b>Research Project</b>
11	NA		<b>Research Project</b>
12	Exam Week		

## United States History Outline

### I. Beginnings

#### A. The World by 1500

1. Peopling the Americas
2. Native American Cultures
3. Europe in the Middle Ages
4. Asia and Africa in the Middle Ages
5. Lure of trade and exploration

#### B. Empires of the Americas

1. First contact
2. Conquest of the mainland
3. The Spanish settle the Americas
4. The English in North America

#### C. The English Colonies

1. New England Colonies
2. Slavery and the Southern colonies
3. The colonies after the Revolution
4. The frontier and the struggle for land

### II. Creating a Nation

#### A. Independence

1. Seeds of unrest
2. Mounting tensions
3. The shot heard round the world
4. Independence declared
5. An American victory

#### B. From Confederation to Federal Union

1. The Articles of Confederation
2. Drafting and ratifying the Constitution
3. The Constitution a living document

#### C. A Strong Start for the Nation

1. A federal government is established
2. Dealing with a dangerous world
3. The nation expands
4. The coming of the War of 1812

### III. Growth and Change

#### A. Nationalism and Economic Growth

1. Rise of nationalism
2. Challenge and growth
3. Rise of Jacksonian democracy
4. Jackson's policies define an era

#### B. Separate Societies: North and South

1. The North and Middle West
2. The cotton kingdom
3. The slave system

- C. Working for Reform
  - 1. Religious zeal and new communities
  - 2. Movements for social reform
  - 3. Crusade for abolition
  - 4. Cause of women's rights
- D. Expansion and conflict
  - 1. Lure of the West
  - 2. Mexican War
  - 3. Far West
  - 4. Rush for California

#### IV. War and Reunification

- A. Slavery and Expansion
  - 1. An uneasy balance
  - 2. Compromise comes to an end
  - 3. On the brink of war
- B. The Civil War
- C. Reconstruction
  - 1. Presidential Reconstruction
  - 2. Congressional Reconstruction
  - 3. The New South

#### V. The Nation Transformed

- A. The Western Crossroads
  - 1. Native American resistance
  - 2. Western Farmers
  - 3. The cattle boom
  - 4. A mining boom
- B. The Transformation of America
  - 1. Industry's golden age
  - 2. The new immigration
  - 3. Urban life
- C. Politics and Protest
  - 1. Restoring honest government
  - 2. Labor strives to organize
  - 3. Farmers, Populism, depression

#### VI. A World Power

- A. The Progressive Movement
- B. America and the World
  - 1. War and Spain
  - 2. Expansion in the Pacific
  - 3. Expansion in Latin America
  - 4. Conflict with Mexico

## V. Prosperity and Crisis

### A. The Jazz Age

1. Boom times
2. Life in the Twenties
3. A creative era

### B. The Great Depression

1. Prosperity shattered
2. Hard times
3. Hoover fails

### C. The New Deal

1. Restoring hope
2. New challenges
3. Life in the new deal era

### D. World War II

1. Early difficulties
2. The Home Front
3. Defeat of the Axis powers

## VIII. Postwar America

### A. Decade of Contrasts

1. Cold war fears
2. The affluent society
3. Voices of dissent

### B. The Sixties

1. The New Frontier
2. Johnson's Great Society
3. Civil Rights movement
4. Culture and counterculture

### C. War in Vietnam

1. Background to conflict
2. The war escalates
3. Americans divided
4. The cease-fire and after

## IX. Modern Times

### A. Nixon: Crisis of the Presidency

### B. The Reagan Revolution

### C. The Clinton Era

### D. George W. Bush