

Course: United States History  
Instructor: Dr. Pamela Smith

Course Description: Historical survey of American history from the Columbian Exchange to the present day.

#### 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.

#### 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: 70%

Research Project: 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 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.
3. Whether working on a short-term or extended assignment, it is imperative that you do it on a daily basis.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. When returned, homework and tests are to be stored in your 3-ring binder.
8. 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.

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.

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.

## 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	3	All	Colonial America
5	4	All	Bonds of Empire
6	5	All	Road to Revolution
7	6	All	Independence
8	6	All	Confederation
9	7	All	Federal Union; Oral Presentations
10	8	All	Jeffersonian Democracy
11	8	All	War of 1812

### Second Trimester

<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Sections</u>	<u>Topics</u>
1	8,9	All	Nationalism; Transformation of Society <b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
2	10	All	Jacksonian Democracy; Reform
3	11,12	All	Separate Societies; North and South
4	11,12	All	Separate Societies; North and South <b>Winter Break</b>
5	13	All	Territorial Expansion and Sectional Conflict
6	14	All	Troubled Decade
7	15	All	Civil War
8	16	All	Reconstruction
9	17	All	Winning the West
10			<b>Review; Mid-Year Cumulative Exam</b>
11	18	All	Rise of Industrial America; Oral Presentations
12	19	All	Immigration

### Third Trimester

<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Sections</u>	<u>Topics</u>
1	20,21	All	Gilded Age Politics; Progressive Era
2	21,22	All	Progressive Era; Imperialism <b>Spring Break</b>
3	22	All	World War I
4	23	All	Jazz Age <b>Easter Break</b> Friday 4/2 – Monday 4/5
5	24	All	Great Depression; New Deal
6	25	All	World War II
7	26,27	All	Cold War; The Fifties
8	28	All	The Sixties; Vietnam
9	29,30	All	Time of Upheaval; Ford to Reagan; Oral Presentations
10	31,32	All	Beyond the Cold War
11	NA		Catch Up
12			<b>Review; Final Cumulative Exam</b>

## 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