

American History I: The Founding Principles



Course Description

This course will address American History from the age of European Exploration of the new worlds through Reconstruction. Students will examine the historical and intellectual origins of the United States. Students will learn about the important political and economic factors that contributed to the development of colonial America and the outbreak of the American Revolution as well as the consequences of the Revolution, including the writing and key ideas of the U.S. Constitution. This course will guide students as they study the establishment of political parties, America's westward expansion, the growth of sectional conflict, how that sectional conflict led to the Civil War, and the consequences of the Civil War, including Reconstruction.

American History I has been designed to provide a framework for studying political, social, economic, and cultural issues, and for analyzing the impact these issues have had on American society over time. This course goes beyond memorization of isolated facts to the development of higher level thinking skills, encouraging students to make historical assessments and evaluations. Throughout the semester, students should begin to see patterns and connections between facts and related ideas in order to reach a deeper understanding of the content.

Course Materials

- 3-ring binder
- Loose leaf paper (preferably college ruled)
- Spiral Notebook (optional; if you prefer to take notes in a section of the binder that is fine.)
- Pens/Pencils
- Colored Pencils (optional)
- Highlighters (optional)

Policies and Expectations

- Show up to class on time with the appropriate materials.
- Read the board for the day's agenda, homework assignments, and what should be turned in.
 - Even if I forget to mention it, it is your responsibility to write it down, turn it in, etc.
- If you are **absent**, you are responsible to make up the work. If the work does not appear on Canvas or in the red folders, ask me. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about something you missed, ask me! Do not wait until it is due to tell me you could not complete it.
- It is expected that you follow the UCPS and CATA behavior policies.
- Cheating and Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

- You must pull your own weight if working in a group. Your group members will be depending on you!
- Always be on task and participate in class.
- Be respectful to everyone in class. This classroom should be a safe environment where EVERYONE feels welcome to ask questions and add their comments, thoughts, and feelings to discussions.

Course Evaluation, Assessments, and More

- This course will be graded using a points system. To calculate your grade, divide the number of points you have earned by the total number of points possible.
- **Tests and Quizzes** will be based on lecture and reading material as well as classwork and homework. Test will be worth about 100 points while quizzes can range from about 20-50 points depending on length and depth.
 - **Rewrites** may be available for tests because they are a good learning tool.
- **Projects** will be worth about as much as a test grade. We will complete one project per six week term.
 - Projects may be individual or group based.
 - Much of this work will need to be done outside of class, and you'll need to budget your time so that it's not rushed at the last minute.
- A **Final Exam** will be taken at the end of the semester and will count for 25% of your grade for this course.
- **Homework** will be assigned often, but will rarely (which does not necessarily mean "never") be assigned over the weekend.
- If you have submitted work, and neither of us is satisfied with the results, it can be re-done for an improved grade. You will have two days in which to resubmit regular assignments, such as homework or classwork. Larger projects will have a longer time allowance. Please note, however, that the opportunity to re-do an assignment DOES NOT extend to work that is not turned in on time and is obviously done in a cursory, last minute manner. If you're having difficulty understanding or completing an assignment, let me know ahead of the due date and we'll deal with it. That's the responsible thing to do.
- **Late Work** will result in a penalty to the grade. 10% will be taken off each day something is late. I will bottom it out at a 50% as long as it is turned in by the final cut-off which will be listed on Progress Reports or the last day of the grading period.

Extra Help

If there is a concept or assignment that you are struggling with, PLEASE LET ME KNOW! If I do not know, I cannot help! I can set up a day to meet with you before school. If it is an assignment that you have had several days to work on, please do not wait until the day it is due to ask for help. I can also help you via email and during Cougar time.

Contact Information

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