

U.S. History I

Course number: SS3308

Grade level: 8–10

Credits: 1.0

Prerequisite courses: None

Course Description

U.S. History I is a year-long course that dynamically explores the people, places, and events that shaped early United States history. This course stretches from the Era of Exploration through the Industrial Revolution, leading students through a careful examination of the defining moments that paved the way for the United States of today. Students begin by exploring the colonization of the New World and examining the foundations of colonial society. As they study the early history of the United States, students will learn critical thinking skills by examining the constitutional foundations of U.S. government. Recurring themes such as territorial expansion, the rise of industrialization, and the significance of slavery will be examined in the context of how these issues contributed to the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Describe the geographical regions of the United States and the influence of these regions on early settlements and the nation's development.
- Explore different cultures within U.S. history and how these cultures were changed by various influences, such as settlement, acts of government, and conflicts.
- Examine the importance of cultural and reform movements on U.S. government and society.
- Assess the political development of the United States, including the influence of democratic ideals, the changing role of government, and the development of the two-party system.
- Investigate and understand the reasons behind American involvement in wars and conflicts throughout U.S. history.
- Trace the economic development of the United States from an agrarian economy to an industrial economy.

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course would. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on the following activities:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, e-mail, chat, and system announcements. Through this communication with your teacher, you will monitor your progress through the course and improve your learning by reviewing material that was challenging for you.

You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face-to-face, as you:

- Collaborate on projects
- Ask and answer questions in your peer group
- Develop speaking and listening skills

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Lesson Quizzes	25%
Unit Tests	30%
Cumulative Exams	20%
Essays	10%
Assignments	10%
Additional	0%
Projects	5%

Scope and Sequence

When you log into the Virtual Classroom, you can view the entire course map, which provides a scope and sequence of all topics you will study. Clicking a lesson's link in the course map leads to a page listing instructional activities, assignments, and learning objectives specific to that lesson. The units of study are summarized below.

- Unit 1:** The New World
- Unit 2:** The Thirteen Colonies
- Unit 3:** Road to Revolution
- Unit 4:** War of Independence
- Unit 5:** A New Nation
- Unit 6:** Jacksonian Democracy
- Unit 7:** Manifest Destiny
- Unit 8:** Sectionalism
- Unit 9:** Rising Tensions
- Unit 10:** The Civil War
- Unit 11:** Reconstruction
- Unit 12:** Industrialization and the West