

AMERICAN HISTORY I
COURSE SYLLABUS 2013-2014

This syllabus adheres to the New York Board of Regents requirements. This course is the first segment of a two year program designed to provide students with the knowledge and understanding of the events and circumstances which make up the development of the United States of America. The American History I course curriculum begins with the examination of the Native Americans prior to European discovery and concludes with the Gilded Era of the 1890's. The course will examine the development of the American social, economic and political systems during this time frame as well as the changes, successes and failures that occurred throughout this period. At the conclusion of the course students should have an appreciation for the unique growth of this nation. It is hoped that from the knowledge instilled by this course students will be able to form their own political, economic and social opinions in an intelligent and rational manner.

The course is supplemented with a project concerning each student's family history. Assignments related to the project are given throughout the academic year.

Knowledge Objectives of the Course:

1. Native American cultures prior to European discovery.
2. European exploration and colonization of the Western Hemisphere with an emphasis on English colonization; concept of mercantilism, the development of the thirteen colonies and salutary neglect.
3. The French and Indian War
4. The American Revolution
5. The Articles of Confederation
6. The Constitutional Convention with a comprehensive study of the U.S. Constitution and Constitutional Law including the Bill of Rights and related Supreme Court Cases
7. The Washington administration and the formation of political parties.
8. The Adams administration with an emphasis on early U.S. foreign policy.
9. The Jefferson Presidency and the Louisiana Purchase with the Lewis and Clark expedition
10. The Madison Presidency and the War of 1812.
11. The Monroe Presidency including the "Era of Good Feelings", the Monroe Doctrine and the Missouri Compromise
12. The Jacksonian Era including reform of the American political system.
13. The geographic, technological and economic growth of the nation in the mid 1800's including reform movements
14. Slavery and its effects on the political and economic divisions of the Nation.
15. The Mexican American War and Compromise of 1850
16. The Civil War
17. Reconstruction and its effect on the nation
18. Western Settlement and the Indian Wars
19. The Industrial Revolution including the growth of cities
20. The Gilded Age

**AMERICAN HISTORY I AI/AII
COURSE OUTLINE**

TEXTBOOK: *A HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, by Boorstin and Kelley*

FIRST TRIMESTER

Unit One – Pre Colonial Era

- Pre –Exploration
- The Age of Exploration
- Christopher Columbus
- English Colonization

Unit Two-The Colonial Era

- The Colonial Era
- Colonial Economy
- Colonial Government
- French and Indian War

Unit Three –The American Revolution

- Road to Revolution
- Colonial Crisis
- Declaration of Independence
- The Revolutionary War

Unit Four – The U.S. Constitution

- The Critical Period
- The Constitutional Convention and the U.S. Constitution
- Bill of Rights

Unit Five- Cases

- Supreme Court Cases dealing with Bill of Rights

SECOND TRIMESTER

**Amendments 16-27 will be covered in the senior American History II course. **

Unit Six – The Birth of a Nation

- Washington Administration
- Post Washington Era

Unit Seven –Jefferson Presidency

- The Jefferson Era

Unit Eight – The War of 1812

- War of 1812
- Post War Era

Unit Nine – Jacksonian Democracy

- The Jacksonian Era

Unit Ten – U.S. Expansion

- U.S. Grows and Improves
- The Mexican American War

Unit Eleven – The Civil War

- Pre Civil War Era

THIRD TRIMESTER

Unit Eleven (Continued)

- The Civil War
- Reconstruction (with coverage of Amendments 13,14,15)

Unit Twelve

- Western Settlement (Indian Wars)

Unit Thirteen

- Industrial Revolution
- Politics in the Gilded Era