AMERICAN HISTORY/AMERICAN HISTORY HONORS

CREDIT HOURS: 1.0  COURSE LENGTH: 2 Semesters

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course students will learn to understand the development of the United States within the context of history with a major focus on the post-Reconstruction period. Students will use knowledge pertaining to history, geography, economics, political processes, religion, ethics, diverse cultures, and humanities to recognize and solve problems in academic, civic, social, and employment settings.

The honors level course requires students to utilize higher order thinking skills such as analysis and synthesis, while completing more rigorous assignments. In addition, more emphasis is placed on research mastery and project based learning.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Middle School History courses

UNIT OUTLINE

Unit I: Early America

This unit discusses the impact of European exploration and settlement on early American cultures. Students will learn about Christopher Columbus, his voyages, and various theories regarding the discovery of America. Students will also learn about early European settlements in the New World, including the Jamestown and Plymouth colonies.

Unit II: The Colonies

This unit discusses the impact of English colonial rule in the New World. Students will learn about society and economy in the northern, middle, and southern colonies, including the origins of the slave trade and the conditions endured by slaves during transport. Finally, students will learn about the causes and effects of, and the crucial role the Iroquois Nation played in, the French and Indian War.
Unit III: Pre-Revolutionary War

This unit discusses events leading up to the American Revolution. Students will learn about key figures—such as Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, and John Adams—as well as key documents—such as The Declaration of Independence and The Articles of Confederation—related to the dispute between Patriots and Loyalists.

Unit IV: The Constitution

This unit introduces the fundamental principles of U.S. government, including those outlined in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Students will learn about the Constitution Convention, the articles of the Constitution, and the system of checks and balances. Students will also learn about the election process and the rights afforded to—as well as the duties and responsibilities of—U.S. citizens.

Unit V: Early American Government

This unit describes key concepts and events related to the formation of the U.S. government, including George Washington’s role as president, the emergence of political parties, and the effects of the 1800 election. Students will learn about the Louisiana Purchase, the War of 1812, the Monroe Doctrine, and the concept of Manifest Destiny. Students will also learn about Andrew Jackson and the impact of his presidency.

Unit VI: The Civil War

This unit describes key events and figures related to the U.S. Civil War. Students will learn about the economics of slavery, the Underground Railroad, the abolitionist movement, and Abraham Lincoln’s impact on U.S. history. Students also will learn about the South’s secession from the Union, the resulting civil war, and post-war reconstruction and laws.

Unit VII: Industrialization and World War I

This unit describes the rise of industrialism in the United States and resulting labor issues, the Spanish American War and President Theodore Roosevelt’s involvement, and World War I. Students will learn about post-war cultural developments, such as the Roaring 20s and the Harlem Renaissance. Students also will learn about the causes and effects of the Great Depression.
Unit VIII: Up to the Present

This unit describes U.S. involvement in World War II and postwar developments in America up to the present. Students will learn about the horrors of the Holocaust, the conflicts that characterized the Cold War, the cultural shifts that occurred in the 1950s and 1960s, and the effects of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Students also will learn about the policies of Presidents Richard Nixon, Ronald Regan, George H. Bush, and Bill Clinton.