

American History II

Updated 5/2020

Course Description:

American History II will offer an in-depth study of US History from colonization to the Civil War (1st semester), and it will also examine the time period ranging from Reconstruction to the present (2nd semester). Activities and projects include a conspiracy theory presentation, historical model creation, dramatization of a major war, anatomy of a dictatorship project, fact-vs.-fiction movie review, and a historic site analysis. ***(Prerequisite: enrolled students must have an average of a B- or better in all previous social studies courses)***

Students may earn 3.0 hours of college credit through enrollment in US105 Am. History I at SEMO during the fall semester, and an additional 3.0 hours of college credit by enrolling in US107 Am. History II at SEMO during the spring semester.

Big Ideas:

- How the first English colonies survived and began to grow, while colonists both learned from and experienced conflict with Native Americans
- The events that pushed Great Britain and the American colonies apart and ultimately led to the signing of the Declaration of Independence
- The conflicts that pulled the North and South apart and the attempts to resolve the issues dividing the country
- How 21st century technology changed daily life and how immigrants helped create a more diverse society

Essential Questions:

- What are the effects of European colonization on Native Americans, and how does slavery originate and develop in the colonies?
- What are some political, economic, and social challenges that colonists encounter during and after the American Revolution?
- How does western expansion politically, economically, and socially affect the development of the United States?
- How did late 20th century conservatives change domestic policies, and how did major world events alter these policies?

Essential Learner Objectives:

1. Students will analyze the economic and social development of the American colonies during the first half of the 18th century
 - New England: Commerce and Religion
 - Explain how distinct regions developed during the colonial period
 - Describe life in the New England farms and towns
 - Describe the three types of Atlantic trade
 - Identify the reasons for changes in Puritan society
 - The Middle Colonies: Farms and Cities

- Identify the resources of the Middle Colonies
 - Describe the prosperity of the cities
 - Evaluate the diversity of the region
 - Analyze the treatment of African Americans
- The Southern Colonies: Plantations and Slavery
 - Analyze the plantation economy and the use of slaves
 - Describe plantation life
 - Summarize the daily life of a slave
 - Describe resistance to the institution of slavery
- The Backcountry
 - Describe the geography of the Backcountry
 - Identify Backcountry settlers and understand their way of life
 - Identify other peoples in North America and explain their conflict with the English colonists

2. Students will analyze the Articles of Confederation, major issues faced by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and the debate over ratifying the Constitution

- The Confederation Era
 - Describe the expansion of the nation and development of state governments
 - Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation
 - Evaluate the importance of the Northwest Ordinance
 - Identify the causes and effects of Shays' Rebellion
- Creating the Constitution
 - Identify key events leading to the Constitutional Convention and to identify key delegates
 - Describe the delegates' expectations
 - Analyze the major issues and compromises of the Constitutional Convention
 - Explain the compromises made regarding slavery and trade in the Constitution
- Ratifying the Constitution
 - Identify the positions of the Federalists and the Antifederalists
 - Explain the role of *The Federalist* Papers in the ratification process
 - Describe the battle for ratification
 - Summarize efforts to pass and ratify the Bill of Rights

3. Students will understand how the Civil War began, its progress during the early years, and its impact on Union and Confederate troops

- War Erupts
 - Describe how fighting began at Fort Sumter
 - Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of both sides
 - Explain each side's basic wartime strategy

- Life in the Army
 - Explain who joined the armies and their motivations for doing so
 - Describe basic military training and supplies of the era
 - Summarize the hardships of life in the military
 - Identify and detail changes in military technology
- No End in Sight
 - Analyze the importance of the Union victories in the West
 - Explain how the fall of New Orleans helped the Union
 - Analyze Lee's victories in the East and his decision to invade the North
 - Detail how the Civil War comes to a close, including when and where the surrender takes place

4. Students will evaluate the presidency of Richard M. Nixon, the Watergate scandal, and the efforts of Presidents Ford and Carter to solve the problems facing the nation in the 1970s

- Nixon Confronts Problems
 - Identify domestic problems facing the nation in 1968
 - Evaluate Nixon's actions to restore law and order
 - Summarize American economic conditions in the early 1970s
 - Describe how President Nixon pursued his foreign policy goals
- Watergate Brings Down Nixon
 - Analyze the 1972 presidential election
 - Trace the events leading to the Watergate scandal
 - Describe the Watergate investigation and Nixon's resignation
 - Evaluate the effects of the Watergate scandal on the American public
- Issues of the 1970s
 - Summarize the events of the Ford presidency
 - Evaluate the Carter presidency
 - Describe the environmental movement
 - Analyze the presidential race of 1980