

# Syllabus for American History

Sessions 1-2: Thursdays 1:30-3:00

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**Description:** Students will learn about the founding of our country, from colonial settlement to the war for independence, and then the building of American society, culture, and our economy. They will trace the development of American institutions, founded on English parliamentary traditions, particularly the shaping of the Constitution. They will continue by studying the challenges facing a growing nation—including the rise of industrialization—and the causes, course, and consequences of the American Civil War.

## **Materials Needed:**

- ☐ 3-Ring Binder (or portion of a large binder) dedicated to this class, as well as paper for notetaking. We will be focusing on study habits, note taking and organization, and students will have regular notebook checks throughout the session.
- ☐ Writing utensil

## **Expectations:**

- \* This is a hands-on class and **students will need to be in attendance in order to get credit.** (*If an absence cannot be avoided the student can arrange to do makeup work during a study session.*)
- \* **Students will be expected to take notes** and to keep those notes and other handout materials neatly in their binder or folder. They will have regular notebook checks throughout the session and they **must have their class notes & materials with them at every class.**
- \* As their **final project**, students will give a presentation on a specific subtopic of their choice.

## **Grading**

- 20% Attendance
- 30% Participation: preparation, note-taking and discussion
- 30% Organized binder, notes and notebook checks
- 20% Homework, final project and presentation

## **Course Outline**

- WEEK 1: Introductions and Pre-Colonial Americas
- WEEK 2: European background and the 13 Colonies
- WEEK 3: 13 Colonies and the Declaration of Independence
- WEEKS 4-5: The American Revolution
- WEEKS 6-7: The Constitution, Bill of Rights, Branches of Government
- WEEKS 8-9: Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion
- WEEK 10: Industry and invention, technological innovations and the class system
- WEEK 11: Slavery and Abolition, North & South; What led up to the Civil War
- WEEKS 12-13: The Civil War
- WEEK 14: Reconstruction
- WEEK 15: Reconstruction cont. & modern connections. **Final Projects & Presentations**