

Course Objectives	Competencies
<p>1. One of the goals of this course is to learn the grand narrative of Early U.S. History that we as a nation draw on as a shared past and understand how our society and nation today came to be. Another is to question this narrative and develop our own opinions about U.S. History as well as its connection to the present.</p> <p>2. Develop an understanding of US History up to 1877 with a focus on important historical events and trends as well as develop historical analysis skills to develop the students own interpretation (based on historical data and evidence).</p>	<p>To accomplish this, includes developing our analytical skills. Therefore, by the end of the course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe varying arguments without bias or judgment • Clearly express their own interpretations of arguments • “Read between the lines” of differing points of view • Distinguish between different types of sources • Use of primary sources as “evidence” to formulate written and oral arguments (through short answer open response questions and class discussion) • Apply principles and generalizations learned in the class to other problems and situations • Use course material as data to formulate arguments and to evaluate the arguments made by in the course materials. • Utilize, where appropriate, quantitative data and reasoning. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop skills and experience in utilizing computer technology and new media as an academic tool <p>Central Course Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explore and learn about pre-colonial societies and civilizations and explore/learn about first contact between the peoples of the Americas and Europeans.</i> • <i>Comprehend, analyze, and evaluate the early history of English colonization of North America.</i> • <i>Identify, analyze, and comprehend the simultaneous growth of slavery and freedom in British North America.</i> • <i>Identify and describe the origins and long term consequences of the French and Indian War/Seven Years War on colonial American society</i>

- Comprehend, identify, and analyze the events, factors, and crises in Anglo-American relations over taxation and other issues led to the coming of the American Revolution.
- Identify and Comprehend the political and social changes resulting from the American Revolution – with a focus on the continuing evolution of concepts of liberty and freedom.
- Identify, analyze, and comprehend the workings and the alleged shortcomings of the Articles of Confederation.
- Analyze and comprehend the workings of the U.S. Constitution.
- Identify, analyze, and comprehend the creation of the U.S. Constitution.
- Comprehend the political history of the new nation including the administrations of the early U.S. Presidents.
- Comprehend the legal precedents set by the Supreme Court in the early years of the republic.
- Comprehend the competing visions for early American economic development as represented by the views of Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton
- Comprehend the market revolution of the early nineteenth century and its impact on the United States.
- Comprehend the institution of slavery (the Peculiar Institution) in the Old South.
- Comprehend the rise and goals of the abolition movement.
- Comprehend the ways in which slaves coped with their lives as slaves – including slave culture, religion, work, gender roles, and others.
- Comprehend the attempts at political compromises over slavery in the 1840s and 1850s.
- Comprehend and analyze the road to secession – including the political, cultural, and economic causes.
- Explain why the Civil War is considered the first modern war.
- Describe how a war to preserve the Union became a war to end slavery.
- Explain how the Civil War transformed the national economy and created a stronger nation-state.

3. Design and carry out an individual or group research project.

4. Develop honors-level research skills.

- Evaluate the conflicting philosophies and factions during Reconstruction and their impact on the era and beyond in U.S. history.
- Analyze and examine the impact of the failures of Reconstruction on the future of US History following 1877.

- The student will be able to formulate historically relevant research questions.
- The student will be able to identify appropriate research methodologies for specific research questions.
- The student will conduct original research using primary sources and appropriate research methodologies.

- Student demonstrates ability to choose a specific, focused topic.
- Student demonstrates familiarity with appropriate methods of research, using library and other research sources.
- Student demonstrates ability to paraphrase, summarize, and integrate research material into finished honors-level papers or projects.

OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES