



Syllabus

Contents

[Course Materials](#)

[Assignments](#)

[Exams](#)

[Grading](#)

What You Should Already Know

This course deals with U.S. history from the Constitutional Convention to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Though there are no prerequisites in terms of the course, it is helpful to have a general background in United States history before this time period.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to do the following:

1. Describe historical events that led to the development of America, its people, and its government.
2. Describe history from a variety of viewpoints.
3. Use skills that will help you in other areas of your education and life.

Course Materials

The units contain all of the material that you will need to successfully complete the unit quizzes and the final examination. You will need access to a library or online collection of historical documents or information to complete your instructor-graded project. An atlas will also be helpful as we refer to places around the world and in the United States.

Course Organization

Assignments

There are six units and one instructor-graded assignment in the course. The units are set up to follow each other, so try to go in order. However, please read Appendix A first, because it will familiarize you with many of the terms that are used throughout the course.

Also, pay close attention to the “What Do You Think?” questions. They are designed to analyze the information that has been presented. Although they do not count toward your grade, these questions are helpful to study for the unit quiz questions and course final exam.

Unit Quizzes

Each unit contains a unit quiz. To study for the unit quiz questions, go back and make sure that you understand all of the big ideas in the “What Do You Think?” questions. Unit quizzes do count toward your grade, so you should do your best on them.

Instructor-graded Assignment

Your course project will be submitted as an instructor-graded assignment. See the instructions in the Instructor-Graded Assignment submission details.

It is recommended that you review the instructor-graded assignment information before beginning your studies so that you will have an idea of what project you might like to work on. Then, as you go through each unit, you may find a subject that is very interesting to you and you can begin to do your research for your project at that point. Don't leave the project to the very last minute and expect to do well on it. The project will probably take you anywhere from ten to twenty hours to complete depending on the project you choose. Start thinking about it early in your course and leave yourself plenty of time to complete it.

Exams

The practice exam is only worth 2 percent of your grade so that you will take the opportunity to see how well prepared you are for the actual final exam. If you do well on the practice final exam without using any notes or books or other resources, you should be ready for the final exam.

The final exam has 48 multiple-choice questions and is closed book and closed notes. Review the “What Do You Think?” questions, unit quizzes, and practice exam to study for the final.

Grading

The following chart shows the grading weights for the entire course.

Assignment	Percentage
Unit 1 Quiz	9%
Unit 2 Quiz	9%
Unit 3 Quiz	9%
Unit 4 Quiz	9%
Unit 5 Quiz	9%
Unit 6 Quiz	9%
Instructor-Graded Assignment	10%
Practice Exam	2%
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	34%

Grading Scale	
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-86
B	85-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-76
C	75-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-66
D	65-63
D-	62-60
E (fail)	59-0