

HIST-150H: HONORS UNITED STATES HISTORY TO 1877: CIVIC LITERACY

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: HIST-150H : Honors United States History to 1877: Civic Literacy

Board of Trustees:

December 2025

Academic Term:

Fall 2026

Subject Code

HIST - History

Course Number:

150H

Title:

Honors United States History to 1877: Civic Literacy

Catalog Description:

Introduction to study of United States history from Age of Exploration to end of Reconstruction. Analysis of historical problems and use of primary sources in study of history.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

Eligibility for ENG-101H Honors College Composition I, or departmental approval.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Synthesize major themes of American development from the colonial era to 1877 and interpret their effects on the present-day nation, in writing, using correct grammar and supporting evidence.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Evaluate the societies established by the First Americans prior to the arrival of the Europeans.
2. Analyze the Age of Exploration and its consequences.
3. Evaluate the establishment, growth, and development of British colonies in North America.
4. Read and discuss principles of Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations.
5. Assess the origins of the African Slave Trade and its effects on the colonial economy and society.
6. Analyze the causes of the American Revolution, the factors leading to an American victory, and the consequences of the war.
7. Read and discuss the entire Declaration of Independence.
8. Evaluate the framework of government established by the Constitution and its significance.
9. Read and discuss the entire United States Constitution.
10. Read and discuss five essays in their entirety from the Federalist Papers.
11. Examine the Early National Period and the presidential administrations of George Washington and John Adams.

12. Analyze the Revolution of 1800 and the Age of Jefferson.
13. Examine the origins of the War of 1812 and its consequences.
14. Evaluate the Era of Good Feelings and its effects on American development.
15. Analyze the rise of sectionalism in the United States.
16. Explain the growth of slavery in the South and its social, political, and economic effects on the section and nation.
17. Evaluate the rise of industrialization in the North and the social, political, and economic implications.
18. Analyze the social, political, and economic consequences of the Age of Andrew Jackson.
19. Examine the Age of Reform and its impact on American society, politics, and economics.
20. Evaluate westward expansion and the causes and consequences of the Mexican-American War.
21. Explain the political and social unrest of the 1850s.
22. Analyze the causes of the Civil War, the factors leading to a Union victory, and the consequences of the conflict.
23. Examine the social, political, and economic factors of Reconstruction.
24. Identify the geographical locations of major events on a map and evaluate the changing boundaries of the nation.
25. Develop and evaluate supporting arguments regarding historical issues.

Course Outcome(s):

Analyze the historical quest for equality and opportunity in the United States and apply the knowledge to the modern nation.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Objective(s):

1. Evaluate the societies established by the First Americans prior to the arrival of Europeans. Compare and evaluate gender roles and cultural differences between indigenous communities and Europeans.
2. Evaluate the establishment, growth, and development of British colonies in North America.
3. Assess the origins of the African Slave Trade and its effects on the colonial economy and society.
4. Analyze the American Revolution and assess the various meanings of "Liberty" and "Freedom". Evaluate which groups of people are included/excluded in these new American ideals of "democracy."
5. Examine the Ages of Jefferson, Jackson, and Manifest Destiny.
6. Analyze the rise of sectionalism and the Market Revolution in the United States.
7. Explain the growth of slavery in the South and its social, political, and economic effects on the section and nation.
8. Examine the development of the enslaved African American community and the developing Free Black community in the North.
9. Evaluate the rise of industrialization in the North and the social, political, and economic implications.
10. Examine the Age of Reform and its impact on American society, politics, and economics. Assess the roles of gender and race with the reform movements.
11. Evaluate westward expansion and the causes and consequences of the Mexican-American War.
12. Analyze the causes of the Civil War, the factors leading to a Union victory, and the consequences of the conflict.
13. Read and discuss the entire Emancipation Proclamation.
14. Read and discuss the entire Gettysburg Address
15. Examine the social, political, and economic factors of Reconstruction.
16. Read and discuss Dr. Martin Luther King's Letter from Birmingham Jail.
17. Analyze and interpret the social and cultural perspectives of women, minorities, and immigrants and evaluate their contributions to American development.

Course Outcome(s):

Analyze the significance of race and gender in American development

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Written Communication: Demonstrate effective written communication for an intended audience that follows genre/disciplinary conventions that reflect clarity, organization, and editing skills.

Objective(s):

1. Evaluate the societies established by the First Americans prior to the arrival of Europeans. Compare and evaluate gender roles and cultural differences between indigenous communities and Europeans.
2. Evaluate the establishment, growth, and development of British colonies in North America.
3. Assess the origins of the African Slave Trade and its effects on the colonial economy and society.
4. Analyze the American Revolution and assess the various meanings of "Liberty" and "Freedom". Evaluate which groups of people are included/excluded in these new American ideals of "democracy."
5. Examine the Ages of Jefferson, Jackson, and Manifest Destiny.
6. Analyze the rise of sectionalism and the Market Revolution in the United States.
7. Explain the growth of slavery in the South and its social, political, and economic effects on the section and nation.
8. Examine the development of the enslaved African American community and the developing Free Black community in the North.
9. Evaluate the rise of industrialization in the North and the social, political, and economic implications.
10. Examine the Age of Reform and its impact on American society, politics, and economics. Assess the roles of gender and race with the reform movements.
11. Evaluate westward expansion and the causes and consequences of the Mexican-American War.
12. Analyze the causes of the Civil War, the factors leading to a Union victory, and the consequences of the conflict.
13. Examine the social, political, and economic factors of Reconstruction.
14. analyze and interpret the social and cultural perspectives of women, minorities, and immigrants and evaluate their contributions to American development.

Course Outcome(s):

Interpret the foundations of the American Constitution and system of government and apply them to the United States today.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Civic Responsibility: Analyze the results of actions and inactions with the likely effects on the larger local and/or global communities.

Objective(s):

1. Evaluate the framework of government established by the Constitution and its significance.
2. Examine the Early National Period and the presidential administrations of George Washington and John Adams.
3. Examine and evaluate the political, social and religious efforts to eradicate the institution of slavery in the decades leading up the American Civil War.

Course Outcome(s):

Analyze primary source documents and evaluate their significance.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Information Literacy: Demonstrate contextual awareness of the research process through the reflective discovery of the production and value of information, the use of information in the creation of new knowledge, and ethical participation in the use of information in communities of learning.

Objective(s):

1. Analyze historical controversies and evaluate primary source documents.
2. Analyze the causes of the American Revolution, the factors leading to an American victory, and the consequences of the war.
3. Analyze the social, political, and economic consequences of the Age of Andrew Jackson.
4. Examine the Age of Reform and its impact on American society, politics, and economics.
5. Analyze the causes of the Civil War, the factors leading to a Union victory, and the consequences of the conflict.
6. Develop and evaluate supporting arguments regarding historical issues.

Course Outcome(s):

Evaluate internet resources and determine appropriate research sites.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Information Literacy: Demonstrate contextual awareness of the research process through the reflective discovery of the production and value of information, the use of information in the creation of new knowledge, and ethical participation in the use of information in communities of learning.

Objective(s):

1. Use and evaluate online resources including primary and secondary source materials.
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Methods of Evaluation:

1. Mid-term exam
2. Final exam
3. Research paper
4. Presentation (individual or group)
5. Book review
6. Participation in discussions
7. Short essays
8. Extended essays
9. Final cumulative exam on the principle documents of the origins and developments that shaped American civics.

Course Content Outline:

1. Course Introduction
 - a. Introduction to the historical discipline
 - b. Historical Research Methods
 - c. Themes in American History
2. The First Americans: the Western Hemisphere before Columbus
 - a. Settlement of the Americas
 - b. Mound builders of the Mississippi Region
 - c. Native American Society on the Eve of Colonization
 - i. Native Americans of the Southwest, South, and East
 - ii. Native American Religion
 - iii. Gender Relations
3. Europe, Africa, and the Age of Exploration
 - a. European Expansion
 - i. Portugal and Prince Henry the Navigator
 - ii. Exploration and African Societies
 - b. Spain in the Americas
 - i. Voyages of Columbus
 - ii. Colonization and Conquest
 - c. The Spanish, French, and Dutch in North America
 - d. The Columbian Exchange
4. English Colonization of North America
 - a. England and the Protestant Reformation
 - b. Jamestown
 - c. Plymouth
 - d. Massachusetts Bay Colony
 - e. Settlement of Maryland and remaining colonies
5. Growth and Development of the British Colonies
 - a. New England
 - i. Puritanism
 - ii. Religious Dissent in New England
 - iii. Salem Witchcraft Trials
 - iv. Diverse economic development
 - v. Principles of Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations
 - ii. Diverse population
 - b. Middle Colonies
 - i. Diverse population
 - ii. Economic development

- c. Southern Colonies
 - i. Agricultural economy
 - ii. Indentured servitude and slavery
 - iii. Social development
- 6. Slavery in Colonial America
 - a. Origins of African slavery
 - b. African slave trade and the middle passage
 - c. North American slavery
 - i. Tobacco colonies
 - ii. Slavery in the lower South
 - iii. Slavery in the North
 - d. African Americans under slavery
 - e. Resistance to slavery
- 7. Breaking the Bonds of Empire: the Road to Revolution
 - a. Seven Years' War
 - b. Proclamation Line of 1763 and Pontiac's Rebellion
 - c. Stamp Act Crisis
 - d. Townshend Acts
 - e. Boston Massacre
 - f. Boston Tea Party and aftermath
 - g. The Declaration of Independence
- 8. The American Revolution
 - a. The U.S. and Britain at the outset of war
 - b. Loyalists and Patriots
 - c. Women and the War
 - d. African Americans and the War
 - e. Native Americans and the War
 - f. Campaigns in the North
 - g. The Southern Campaigns
 - h. Surrender at Yorktown
 - i. The Meaning of the Revolution
 - i. Democratic ideology
 - ii. Laboratories for liberty: the new state constitutions
- 9. The Constitutional Convention and the framework of the American System of Government
 - a. Articles of Confederation and its weaknesses
 - b. Economic Crisis and Shays' Rebellion
 - c. Constitutional Convention
 - i. The Delegates
 - ii. Virginia Plan and the New Jersey Plan
 - iii. Great Compromise
 - iv. 3/5 Compromise
 - v. The United States Constitution
 - d. Ratification of the Constitution
 - i. Federalists
 - ii. Anti-Federalists
 - iii. The Federalist Papers
 - e. Bill of Rights
- 10. Early National Period: Washington and Adams Administrations
 - a. Washington Administration
 - i. The Cabinet
 - ii. Hamilton's Fiscal Policies
 - iii. Rise of Political Parties: Federalists and Democratic-Republicans

b. John Adams Administration

- i. XYZ Affair and the crisis with France
- ii. Crisis over Freedom of Speech: Alien and Sedition Acts
- iii. Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions

11. Age of Jefferson

- a. Election of 1800
- b. Revolution of 1800
- c. John Marshall and the establishment of an independent Supreme Court
- d. Louisiana Purchase
- e. British impressments and the Embargo Act

12. War of 1812: the Second War for Independence

- a. Origins of War
 - i. Impressments
 - ii. Native Americans and the British
 - iii. War Hawks

- b. Military Aspects of the War
- c. Consequences of the War

- i. Hartford Convention
- ii. Treaty of Ghent
 - iii. Native Americans

13. Era of Good Feelings

- a. Economic Nationalism
 - i. American System
 - ii. Erie Canal
 - b. John Marshall and judicial nationalism
 - c. Cultural Nationalism
 - d. Rise of Sectionalism: Missouri Compromise of 1820

14. The South and Slavery

- a. King Cotton and slavery's expansion
- b. Social Hierarchy of the South
 - i. Planter elite and plantation mistresses
 - ii. Small slave owners
 - iii. White majority

1. Middling ranks

2. Poor whites

iv. Free African Americans

v. Slaves

c. African American experience under slavery

- i. Field laborers and house servants
 - ii. African American families
 - iii. Artisans and skilled workers
 - iv. Slave narratives

d. Resistance

- i. African American religion
 - ii. Slave revolts

iii. Free African Americans

15. The Industrial North

- a. Revolution in Transportation
- b. Market Revolution
- c. Yankee ingenuity
- d. Industrialization
 - i. Lowell Mills

- ii. American system of manufactures
- iii. Social effects of industrialization
- 16. Age of Andrew Jackson
 - a. Jacksonian Democracy
 - b. Election of 1828
 - c. Nullification Controversy
 - d. Second National Bank
 - e. Second American Party System
 - f. Indian Removal
- 17. Age of Reform
 - a. The Second Great Awakening
 - b. Temperance, asylum, education, and other reforms
 - c. Abolition
 - d. Women's Rights
 - e. Utopian movements
- 18. Manifest Destiny and the Mexican-American War
 - a. Westward expansion and manifest destiny
 - i. Annexation of Texas
 - ii. Oregon Territory
 - iii. Overland Trails
 - b. Mexican-American War
 - i. Origins of the war
 - ii. Military aspects of conflict
 - iii. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
 - iv. Consequences of war
- 19. Sectional Crisis of the 1850s
 - a. Politics of Manifest Destiny
 - b. Compromise of 1850 and consequences
 - c. Division in national politics
 - i. Kansas-Nebraska Act
 - ii. Nativism
 - iii. Republican Party and the election of 1856
 - d. Dred Scott decision
 - e. Harper's Ferry raid
 - f. Election of 1860
- 20. Civil War
 - a. Origins of war
 - b. North and South at the outset of war
 - c. Lincoln and Davis as wartime leaders
 - d. Military aspects of war
 - i. Early phase: Spring 1861-Spring 1862
 - ii. Decisive period: Spring 1862-Fall 1863
 - 1. George McClellan and the Peninsula Campaign
 - 2. Antietam
 - 3. The Emancipation Proclamation
 - 4. Battle of Gettysburg
 - 5. The Gettysburg Address
 - 6. Battle of Vicksburg
 - iii. End of conflict: Fall 1863 – Spring 1865
 - 1. Sherman's March to the Sea
 - 2. Grant and Lee in Northern Virginia
 - 3. Appomattox

- e. Women and the War
- f. African Americans and the war
- g. Assassination of Abraham Lincoln
- 21. Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution
 - a. Politics of Reconstruction
 - i. Lincoln's Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction
 - ii. Andrew Johnson and Reconstruction
 - iii. Radical Republicans and Congressional Reconstruction
 - iv. Question of Woman suffrage
 - b. Freedmen
 - i. Social conditions
 - ii. Economic conditions
 - iii. Political conditions
 - c. White resistance to Reconstruction
 - d. Disputed Election of 1876
 - e. Dr. Martin Luther King's Letter from Birmingham Jail

Religious Accommodation

Before reviewing the course schedule, students should carefully review the following religious accommodation policy and other required instructional policies:

Religious Accommodation:

Students seeking an accommodation for absences permitted under Ohio's Testing Your Faith Act must provide the instructor with written notice of the specific dates for which the student requires an accommodation and must do so not later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of instruction. Please submit requests for accommodations at this link: <https://portal2.tri-c.edu/ReligiousAccommodation/ReligiousAccommodationForm>. Students with questions about their religious accommodations under Ohio's Testing Your Faith Act may contact the College's Office of General Counsel and Legal Services by phone at 216.987.4856 or via email at legal@tri-c.edu.

Other Required Instructional Policies:

<https://www.tri-c.edu/student-resources/curriculum/documents/syllabus-part-b.pdf>

Weekly Schedule

	Topics
Week 1	Week 1: Course Introduction/Syllabus Review What Is America?
	Week 2: Discovering Early Americans
	Week 3: Relations Between Europeans, Natives, and Africans
	Week 4: Politics and the Colonies and a Century of Warfare
	Week 5: Imperial Breakdown
	Week 6: The American Revolution
	Week 7: The Constitutional Convention
	Week 8: America's First Constitutional Government
	Week 9: The War of 1812 and Westward Expansion
	Week 10: Egalitarianism and the Changing Presidency
	Week 11: The Transportation & Industrial Revolutions
	Week 12: Agriculture, Native Americans and War with Mexico
	Week 13: Southern Division, Slave Life & Free Society
	Week 14: Morality in America and Abolitionism
	Week 15: The American Civil War
	Week 16: Federal Reconstruction

The Course Schedule is subject to change due to pedagogical needs, instructor discretion, parts of term, and unexpected events.

Required/Recommended Readings

Readings will be from one of the below recommended textbooks, as selected by the individual instructors.

- Corbett, Janssen, Lund, Pfannestiel, & Vickery. *US History*. Open Stax, Rice University, Houston, TX.
- Foner, Eric, *Give me Liberty Seagull Vol. 1*, online text with access to InQuizitive
- Kennedy (https://www.amazon.com/David-Kennedy/e/B000APMU2Q/?ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_2&qid=1758646867&sr=1-2), David and Lizabeth Cohen, *American Pageant Vol. 1*

- Smith, Adam, *The Wealth of Nations*
- *The Constitution of the United States*
- *The Declaration of Independence*
- Hamilton, Alexander, John Jay, James Madison. *Federalist Papers*. 1788.
- Lincoln, Abraham. *The Emancipation Proclamation*. 1863.
- *Lincoln, Abraham*. *The Gettysburg Address*. 1863.
- King, Martin Luther. *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. 1963.

Supplemental Texts

- *Essays on Civil Disobedience*, edited by Bob Blaisdell, 2016, 978-0486793818 (This includes MLK Birmingham Jail as well as Thoreau and a lot of others) (<http://amazon.com/Essays-Civil-Disobedience-Thrift-Editions/dp/0486793818/>)
- *The Salem Witch Hunt: A Brief History with Documents*, Second Edition by Richard Godbeer. Published by Bedford/St. Martin's. ISBN: 978-1319088132
- Theda Perdue, *Cherokee Removal: A Brief History with Documents*

Resources for the Instructor

Faragher, John Mack, et al. "Out of Many: A History of the American People" 9th ed. 2021.

Nash, Gary, et al. "The American People: Creating a Nation and a Society" 8th ed. 2016.

Norton, Mary Beth, et al. "A People and a Nation: A History of the United States" 11th ed. 2024.

Bailyn, Bernard. "The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution" 2017.

Cole, Donald B. "The Presidency of Andrew Jackson" 1993.

Countryman, Edward. "The American Revolution" 2003.

Crosby Jr., Alfred W. "The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492" 2003.

Douglass, Frederick. "Narrative of the Life of an American Slave"

DuBois, Ellen C. "Feminism and Suffrage: The Emergency of an Independent Women's Movement in America, 1848-1869" 2007.

Eisenhower, John S. D. "So Far from God: the U.S. War with Mexico, 1846-1848" 2013.

Ellis, Joseph J. "American Sphinx: the Character of Thomas Jefferson" 1998.

Faragher, John Mack. "Women and Men on the Overland Trail" 2013.

Foner, Eric. "Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877" 2014.

Freehling, William W. "A Road to Disunion, Vol. 1: Secessionists at Bay, 1776-1854" 1998.

Gienapp, William E. "The Origins of the Republican Party, 1852-1856" 1988.

Ginzberg, Lori D. "Women and the Work of Benevolence: Morality, Politics, and Class in the Nineteenth-Century United States" 1990.

Hooke, Holger. *Scars of Independence: America's Violent Birth*. 2017.

Johnson, Paul. "A Shopkeeper's Millennium: Society and Revivals in Rochester, New York, 1815-1837" 2004.

Joseph Jr., Alvin M. "500 Nations: An Illustrated History of North American Indians" 1994.

Karlsen, Carol. "The Devil in the Shape of a Woman: Witchcraft in Colonial New England" 1998.

Kehoe, Alice B. "North American Indians: A Comprehensive Account" 2005.

Kerber, Linda. "Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America" 1997.

Kolchin, Peter. "American Slavery, 1619-1877" 2003.

Laurie, Bruce. "Artisans into Workers: Labor in Nineteenth-Century America" 1997.

McPherson, James. "Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era" 2003.

Leon-Portilla, Miguel. "The Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico" 1992.

Norton, Mary Beth. "Liberty's Daughters: The Revolutionary Experience of American Women, 1750-1800" 1996.

Randall, William Sterne. "George Washington: A Life" 2010.

Rose, Willie Lee. "A Documentary History of Slavery in North America" 1999.

Weber, David J. "The Spanish Frontier in North America" 1999.

White, Deborah Gray. "Ain't I A Woman?" 1999.

Wood, Gordon. "The Creation of the American Republic, 1776-1787" 1998.

Journal and Magazine. "American Historical Review" 2020.

Journal and Magazine. "Journal of American History" 2020.

Foner, Eric, Kathleen Duval, and Lisa McGirr. *Give Me Liberty! An American History*. 7th ed. W.W. Norton & Company, 2024.

Morgan, Jennifer L. *Reckoning with Slavery: Gender, Kinship, and Capitalism in the Early Black Atlantic*. Chapel Hill: Duke University Press, 2021.

Saunt, Claudio. *Unworthy Republic: The Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to Indian Territory*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2021.

Dubois, Ellen Carol. *Suffrage: Women's Long Battle for the Vote*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2020.

Additional Resources for the Instructor

Websites:

1. Virtual Jamestown: <https://www.virtualjamestown.org/page2.html>
2. Slave Voyages: <https://www.slavevoyages.org/>; [2021](#).
3. The American Revolution: <https://www.masshist.org/revolution/>; [2025](#).
4. The Early Republic: <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/creating-the-united-states/special-presentations.html>
5. Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers Project: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/about-this-collection/>
6. A House Divided: <https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/exhibits/ahd/index.html> (<https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/exhibits/ahd/>)

Instructional Services

OAN Number:

Ohio Transfer 36 TMSBS and Transfer Assurance Guide OHS043 and OHS010 (1 of 2 courses, both must be taken)

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