COURSE SYLLABUS

History of the United States

Hello, and welcome!

Studying history can be like traveling across time and space. This is true even when you study the history of your own country. It can seem like a completely different world than where you currently live. To understand history, you must be able to relate to the people who lived in that time and place. You need to examine the decisions they made. You must understand their daily lives and the relationships they had. That can make studying history feel more like studying anthropology or sociology. There are so many different perspectives!

We invite you to take a minute to learn about the course by reviewing the information below. This way, you will be better able to understand the expectations of the course as a whole. Then you can determine how to manage your time and efforts as you navigate through it.

Are you ready to take a whirlwind trip from its earliest beginnings all the way to the late 20th century? It is sure to be an adventure!

Course Description and Competencies

What to Expect

This course is organized into four modules. Each module covers a specific timeframe of U.S. history. And each module is broken down into a number of units. The units are the basic building blocks of the course. Within each unit you will find:

- An introduction to the unit
- A textbook chapter based upon American Yawp
- Hyperlinks in the text to supplementary videos, interactive timelines, and maps
- Knowledge Checks to help you verify your progress
- Primary Sources, which are documents from people who witnessed the history
- A conclusion to the unit
- Flash cards of important events, terms, and people to help you study
- A Reflection question to help you think about the main theme of the unit
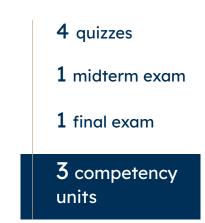
Additionally, each module includes:

- A practice module quiz
- A module quiz that will be assessed

Lastly, there is a midterm, which covers the first two modules. And there is a final, which covers the last two modules.

This course covers the following competencies:

1. The learner identifies the social, political, and economic organization of the British colonies.
2. The learner identifies the major causes and outcomes of the American Revolution.
3. The learner identifies slavery and territorial expansion as causes of the Civil War.
4. The learner recognizes the changing nature of freedom in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
5. The learner explains the evolving role of the United States in the world.
6. The learner describes the diverse social and cultural issues of the late 20th century.

4 quizzes

1 midterm exam

1 final exam

3 competency units

The assessment provides an opportunity to demonstrate your mastery of the competencies in this course. You may attempt the assessment two times before additional support is necessary. If you require further attempts, please contact our support team at (888) 320-0540 or support@academy.wgu.edu.

Course Outline

Module:	Unit:	Upon completion of this module, you will be able to:
1 **A Colonized Country**	– Colonial Society – The American Revolution – A New Nation	A. Identify how the colonies relied on slavery B. Recognize how race, gender, and religion affected the colonists C. Identify the source of the colonists' sense of independence and desire for Revolution
2 **A Divided America**	– The Early Republic – Democracy in America – The Sectional Crisis – The Civil War	A. Contrasting the social and economic differences between the North and South B. Recognizing the tension between slavery and the expanding nation C. Identifying the causes of the Civil War
3 **A Reforming America**	– The Reconstruction Era – American Imperialism – The Progressive Era – World War I & Aftermath	A. Identify how African American life was different after slavery ended B. Recognize the causes of Progressive reform C. Recognize the outcomes of U.S. involvement in World War I
4 **An Evolving America**	– The Great Depression – World War II – The Cold War – The 1960s – The Triumph of the Right – The War on Terror	A. Identify the causes and social impact of the Great Depression B. Explain American involvement and leadership in World War II C. Recognize tactics and accomplishments of the civil rights movement D. Describe how the social and economic changes of the 1970s gave rise to a new political order

Sources

This course was built using *The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open U.S. History Textbook*. This text was written by historians and educators from some of the country's best institutions. The book holds an Attribution-ShareAlike Creative Commons license (CCBY-SA 4.0). This means all materials from it are available to everyone to share and reuse.

Note: As you read the text, you will see footnotes throughout. These provide additional information, but you are not required to review them.

The full contents of this text can be found at the following links below. However, the sections you need are provided directly on the course site.

Free PDF Versions:
- Volume 1: To 1877 (456 pages)
- Volume 2: Since 1877 (464 pages)

$25 Paperback Versions from Stanford University Press:
- Volume 1: To 1877 (456 pages)
- Volume 2: Since 1877 (464 pages)

Primary sources are first-hand accounts. These may include written summaries, such as letters and diaries. They may also include artwork, physical objects, and oral summaries. Historians rely on primary sources when they create textbooks and other materials. Primary sources will help you understand key events in history.

Complete versions of the primary sources used in The American Yawp can be found at the links below. In addition, certain elements of each are provided directly on the course site.

Free PDF Versions:
- Volume 1: To 1877 (305 pages)
- Volume 2: Since 1877 (302 pages)

Technology Requirements

We want you to have the tools to succeed! Since this course includes at least one proctored test, please be sure to have a working microphone, speakers, and an external webcam. Unfortunately, an internal webcam (built into many laptops) is not acceptable. (Note: The external webcam is required only for exams that have proctors. You do not need one for practice tests and other non-proctored assessments.) For other details about the technology you'll need, review the Computer System and Technology Requirements. If you have questions about your setup, contact support@academy.wgu.edu.

You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader DC. If you haven't already, download this free software. You may encounter an interactive form that contains fields that you can select or fill in. Review how to fill in a PDF form.

Key Contacts

Your Fellow Learners

Check out the U.S. History Lobby in the course site! In this online community, you can ask questions and explore ideas. You can connect with your fellow students. You will also find helpful videos and exercises. When you use this site, you will realize that other learners may have the same questions you have. You can all benefit from learning together!

Tutor.com

If you need academic support, don't hesitate to contact Tutor.com. There, you have access to thousands of tutors. And they are available 24/7 from any internet-ready device. You can also benefit from instructional videos, study tools, and other assistance.

Technical Support

If you encounter technical issues, be sure to contact the Help Desk. Just submit a Support request for assistance.

Program Support

Do you have questions about your account? Student Support has answers. They can help with billing, switching courses, and other requests. You can contact them at (888) 320-0540 or support@academy.wgu.edu.

Accommodations

WGU provides compliant and accessible learning experiences. If you require accommodation, please contact us at the start of the course. You can email Support@academy.wgu.edu or call (888) 320-0540. We are committed to ensuring that all students with disabilities have equal access to WGU's services and materials. We strive to use best practices for accessibility. Our goal is to conform to existing U.S. laws. These include the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Our learning management system (LMS) platform is Open edX. Open edX's commitment to accessible content is published on their Website Accessibility Policy.