American Civilization I, Honors

Scope of course: This course covers the time frame of colonial times to the end of the 19th century, and will focus on events, trends, and leaders. It will offer insight into the social, cultural, economic, political, and military problems of this period, and how these challenges were faced. Contrast will be made to contemporary problems Americans face today. Current events will be woven into the course to show continuity or change in how issues are faced by a country.

Course Intent: Students will have a daily quiz, and short essays twice a week. Depending on the requirements of the sending school, the basic information covered will be as follows:

Content of Coverage: The Colonial Period: English, French, Spanish, Dutch colonies; Conflict Between Colonists and the British: The New American Nation and Political System: from Articles of Confederacy to US Constitution, from separate colonies and representatives to the office of President. Jeffersonian Politics: Expansion of US territory; importance of Supreme Court; Missouri Compromise. Age of Jackson: Rise of manufacturing; Monroe Doctrine; religious revival; reforms; transportation infrastructure. US expansion and Challenges: Manifest Destiny; Mexican War; Kansas- Nebraska Act; Lincoln-Douglas debates; Dred Scott Decision. Civil War and Reconstruction: Western Expansion and Social, Economic and Political Advances: Populism; movement West; farms, ranches, mines, timber to be used. America Becomes an Industrial Giant and Global Imperialist: Changes in workplace; Big Business; Labor Unions; Gilded Age; Immigration; income polarization; acquisitions worldwide; Spanish-American War; Roosevelt Corollary; Panama Canal. Progressive Era:

Course Duration: The class will meet everyday, Monday through Friday, 4 hours per day, or 20 hours per week, for 6 weeks; totaling 120 hours. There will be either a test or coding project for each unit. Grading will be based upon test scores, homework and final project.