

Course Description

AMH2010 | History of the US to 1877 | 3.00 credits

In this course, students will examine United States History from before European contact to 1877. Topics will include but are not limited to indigenous peoples, the European background, the colonial period, the American Revolution, the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, issues within the new republic, sectionalism, manifest destiny, slavery, the American Civil War, and Reconstruction. Student learning outcomes: Students will describe the factual details of the substantive historical episodes under study; students will identify and analyze foundational developments that shaped American history from before European contact to 1877 using critical thinking skills; students will demonstrate an understanding of the primary ideas; values, and perceptions that have shaped United States history; and students will demonstrate competency in civic literacy.

Course Competencies

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate knowledge of European exploration and colonization of the Americas by:

1. Describing the Native American peoples and cultures residing in the Americas prior to 1492
2. Discussing the motivations for European exploration and colonization of the new world
3. Examining how the Native and European cultures impacted each other upon contact
4. Comparing the different labor systems introduced in colonial America
5. Contrasting the Spanish, French, and English colonial expansion in America

Competency 2: The student will discuss the motivations for European exploration and colonization of the new world by:

1. Comparing and contrasting the first colonies established by the English in America
2. Describing the different colonial economies and social structures that emerged in the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Chesapeake regions
3. Examining the role of British mercantile policies on the development of the different regions of colonial America
4. Examining the factors leading to the French and Indian War and how the war affected British and colonial relations

Competency 3: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the American Revolution by:

1. Displaying knowledge of the American Revolution
2. Examining the varied methods employed and arguments used by American colonists to oppose British policies
3. Describing the key events that led to the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War and the Declaration of Independence in context
4. Evaluating the social, political, and economic changes that resulted from the American Revolutionary experience

Competency 4: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the early American republic by:

1. Displaying knowledge of the early American republic
2. Describing the structure and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation government
3. Discussing the ideological debates and compromises that shaped the development of the U.S. Constitution in 1787
4. Examining the ideological shift of power in 1800, characterized by the election of Jefferson
5. Discussing the relationship between territorial expansion resulting from the Louisiana Purchase, the acquisition of Florida, and the expansion of slavery
6. Identifying the causes of the War of 1812, and the outcomes of the conflict

Competency 5: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the Jacksonian Era, and the institution of slavery in the antebellum south by:

1. Showing knowledge of the Jacksonian Era, and the institution of slavery in the antebellum south
2. Describing the rise of the second American two-party system
3. Describing the abolitionist, feminist, public school, and prison reform movements
4. Examining the economic, political, and social structures of southern society to 1860
5. Examining U.S. relations with the various Indian nations from the early 18th century through the Civil War era

Competency 6: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the origins of the Civil War by:

1. Describing the concept of Manifest Destiny as a spirit of the age
2. Outlining the development of railroads, canals, and roads in the 19th century
3. Discussing the mobilization of American peoples and cultures for war in 1861
4. Appraising the strengths and weaknesses of the Confederate and Union war efforts
5. Identifying the factors that allowed the Union to achieve victory in 1865 and the war's social, economic, and political effects on American peoples
6. Examining the social, political, and economic consequences of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and the impact of Lee's surrender at Appomattox

Course Competency 7: The student will show a comprehension of the era of Reconstruction by:

1. Examining the impact of Lincoln's assassination in April 1865 on the different plans for reconstructing the South
2. Describing the growing conflict between southern whites and freedmen over the status of African-Americans in the post-war South
3. Discussing the social, economic, and political consequences of halting Reconstruction in 1877

Learning Outcomes

- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information