

United States History - Part I

From Prehistoric Times to Jacksonian Democracy

Grades:	6 th – 8 th
Day of Week:	Wednesdays
Time of Class:	11:00am – 12:30pm ET
Length of Class:	10 weeks
Semester:	Fall 2023
Tuition:	\$250.00

Please note: You can register for the full year of American History for \$600.00. Please look for that option!

Class Dates:

Week 1: September 13, 2023

Week 2: September 20, 2023

No OTA classes from September 25 – October 6, 2023 – Jewish Holidays

Week 3: October 11, 2023

Week 4: October 18, 2023

Week 5: October 22, 2023

Week 6: November 1, 2023

Week 7: November 8, 2023

Week 8: November 15, 2023

No classes from November 20 – 24 – Thanksgiving Holidays

Week 9: November 29, 2023

Week 10: December 6, 2023

Make-Up Day (if needed): December 13, 2023

Instructor's Name:	Jonathan Meola
Instructor's Email:	jonathan@opententacademy.com
Instructor's Phone:	703.982.0684
Instructor's WhatsApp:	305.906.2897
Office Hours:	By appointment

Description of Class:

This three-part course explores the rich and diverse history of the United States, from its earliest days to the present. We will cover key themes such as the American Revolution, the Civil War, the Civil Rights movement, and more recent events such as 9/11 and the 2020 Presidential Election. The course will explore the American experience and experiment.

Part I delves into the earliest eras of American history, from the pre-Columbian period to the post-Revolutionary era. The course will examine the diverse cultures and societies that existed in North America before the arrival of Europeans, and how these were impacted by the arrival and colonization of the continent. Students will explore the political, economic, and social developments of the colonial period, and the causes and events of the American Revolution. Additionally, the course will investigate the formation of the new nation, including the drafting and ratification of the Constitution and the early years of the Republic. The course will make use of primary sources, such as letters, diaries, and government documents, to gain a deeper understanding of the people, events, and ideas that shaped this crucial period of American history.

Class Approach:

Highlighting important events and their historical consequences. The class will be less concerned with memorizing dates and cities and will instead focus on how we can relate to the history of our country as well as feel the courage, passion, and political genius of the founding of our great nation.

Goals:

Students will gain an appreciation for the United States and the people who fought for it. They will, through discussion and debate, begin to forge and express their opinions, and gain an insight into how events, ideas, and people shaped our country, over this period of early American history.

Textbook:

The textbook for the course, "Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story" by Wilfred M. McClay, provides a comprehensive and engaging introduction to the people, events, and ideas that have shaped this great nation. Using primary sources, historical maps, and other multimedia resources, the textbook offers a deeper understanding of the American story and the forces that have shaped it. Use of this textbook, along with other materials during the course, will help learners to develop critical thinking and analytical skills, and encourage them to engage with the issues and debates that continue to shape the United States today.

Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story (Young Reader's Edition, Volume I)

ISBN-10: 1641771704

ISBN-13: 978-1641771702

<https://www.amazon.com/Land-Hope-Young-Readers-Invitation/dp/1641771704/>

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

- Access to a computer
- Internet Access
- At times, instructor will share an article or video to be viewed in preparation for class

Requirements:

The learners will be expected to write about certain topics concerning American history as well as political ideas. During class, they will be asked to participate by voicing their opinions on key discussion topics. Learners will be expected to participate and interact with the instructor and their peers in class. Learners will be required to complete assignments in a timely manner. Learners need to respect each other.

Weekly Homework:

Approximately two hours a week; assignments will be a mix of worksheets and responses to written prompts.

There will also be:

- a class project, to be completed and shared during Class 10
- a final exam assigned, following Class 10, that will need to be completed at home

Homework Policy:

Homework will be due prior to class for learners to receive full credit unless arrangements have been made in advance. Learners will receive partial credit for homework submitted within two class periods of due date. No credit will be given for homework turned in after two consecutive weeks/sessions. Additionally, any outstanding homework needs to be turned in prior to the class final, even if that is sooner than the two weeks.

Additional Policies:

- Honesty.
- Integrity.
- Respect.

Evaluation:

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| ● Class Assignments & Participation | 35% |
| ● Class Presentation | 30% |
| ● Class Final | 35% |

Grading Scale:

- 100-91: A
- 90-80: B
- 79-70:C
- 69-66: D
- 65 and below - No effort: F

Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction & Origins: One Long Story
Week 2	Settlement and Unsettling - Beginnings
Week 3	Shaping North America, The British Way
Week 4	Stirrings of Self-Rule
Week 5	Revolution & War - Building a Nation
Week 6	The Experiment Begins - Confederation and its Challenges
Week 7	"A Republic, If You Can Keep It"
Week 8	Jeffersonian Democracy & the "Revolution of 1800"
Week 9	Andrew Jackson & the rise of the "Common Man"
Week 10	Class Presentations / Assignment of Final Exam