

United States History for Middle Schoolers - Part II

From the Panic of 1837 to the Progressive Era

Grades:	6th – 8th
Day of Week:	Wednesdays
Time of Class:	11:00am – 12:30pm ET
Length of Class:	10 weeks
Semester:	Winter 2024

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

Class Dates:

Week 1: January 10, 2024
Week 2: January 17, 2024
Week 3: January 24, 2024
Week 4: January 31, 2024
Week 5: February 7, 2024
Week 6: February 14, 2024
Week 7: February 21, 2024
Week 8: February 28, 2024
Week 9: March 6, 2024
Week 10: March 13, 2024
Make-Up Day (if needed): March 20, 2024

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 II covers the time starting with the Panic of 1837 and ending with the rise (and fall of) the Bull Moose Party in the Presidential Election of 1912. We will examine the political, economic, and social changes that occurred during this period of American history, including the rise of the Democratic Party and the presidency of Andrew Jackson, the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, the Gilded Age and the rise of industrial capitalism, and the Progressive Era and the reform movements of the early 20th century. Learners will explore key issues such as westward expansion, immigration, labor, and women's rights, and will study key figures such as Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Theodore Roosevelt. The course will use a variety of primary and secondary sources, including speeches, court cases, and newspaper articles, to gain a deeper understanding of this dynamic period in 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:

Learners 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.

Please note that there are two separate volumes of the textbook that will be used in this session.

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

ISBN-10: 1641771704 (Volume 1), 1641772700 (Volume 2)

ISBN-13: 978-1641771702 (Volume 1), 978-1641772709 (Volume 2)

Volume 1: <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: The Jacksonian Legacy
Week 2	The Old South and its “Peculiar Institution” - Slavery
Week 3	The Oncoming Storm
Week 4	A House Divided: The Civil War
Week 5	Reconstruction: Triumph and Tragedy
Week 6	Transforming a Nation
Week 7	Going to Extremes: The Gilded Age
Week 8	On the World Stage: A New Power
Week 9	The Bull Moose & the Rise of Progressivism
Week 10	Class Presentations / Assignment of Final Exam