Course Description

This class is a survey of American History from the Colonial Era through the end of the Civil War. Our main goal is to gain a better understanding of the development of the U.S. as we become familiar with the struggles and controversies that helped shape American society. We will concentrate on themes including European contact, development of American colonies, building up a nation, expansion, slavery, labor, transportation, the economy, religion and reform, disunion and reconstruction. The course objectives are:

1. To gain a better understanding of the major historic events between 1492 and 1865.
2. To acquire a historical understanding of cultural groups and issues
3. To improve skills of analysis and logical reasoning
4. To improve the ability to write and comment effectively.

This course fulfills not only the U.S. History graduation requirement for SFDR-CISD, but also fulfills the U.S. History credit requirement for a Bachelor’s Degree from a state university in Texas. This course is transferable to other colleges and universities. Because credit is given for both high school and college, students are expected to work harder than if they were to take a “regular” high school government class. Therefore, the expectations for students will be high; however the rewards will also be significant.

Course Materials


Students will also receive teacher-generated handouts and materials throughout the semester.

Students will also need:

- 3 ring binder (1-1/2 inch) with 5 dividers.
- Ruled paper and a spiral notebook for note taking.
- Pens, pencils and highlighters
- Colored Pencils (optional)
- You may bring your tablet to class, but you may only use it at times approved by the instructor.
- It is also strongly suggested that you have a planner or calendar, either electronic or paper copy, to help you stay organized with assignments and due dates.

Student Evaluation

50% Major Grades (Exams, Quizzes, Projects, etc.)
40% Minor Grades (Notes, Homework, Daily Assignments, Participation, etc.)
10% Comprehensive Final Exam

*Please note that the College Grading Scale is different from the High School Grading Scale. You may receive a D in the course, which is a passing grade for Angelo State University. A college D, however, is a high school F. Do not be satisfied with mediocrity; strive to become the best you can be!
Course Outline

Unit 1: Colonial America: 1492-1754

Weeks 1-3  A New World
Beginnings of English America, 1607-1660
Creating Anglo-America, 1660-1750
Slavery, Freedom, and the Struggle for Empire to 1763
EXAM #1

Unit 2: Revolutionary America 1754-1789

Weeks 4-5  The American Revolution, 1763-1783
The Revolution Within
EXAM #2

Unit 3: The Early National Period 1789-1828

Weeks 6-8  Founding a Nation, 1783-1789
Securing the Republic, 1790-1815
The Market Revolution, 1800-1840
EXAM #3

Unit 4: Antebellum America 1824-1860

Weeks 9-11  Democracy in America, 1815-1840
An Age of Reform, 1820-1840
A House Divided, 1840-1861
EXAM #4

Unit 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction 1860-1877

Weeks 12-13  A New Birth of Freedom: The Civil War
“What is Freedom?” Reconstruction, 1865-1877
EXAM #5

Week 14  Final Exam

All Units will include the following:

Reading of assigned textbook chapters & notes: Students will be expected to independently read, and take notes on, assigned chapters in the course text, 1 to 2 chapters on average per week.

Chapter Study Guides: Students will define key terms by generating a basic definition and explaining its historical significance as a framework for building understanding of U.S. History. The Study Guide will also have questions based on the key concepts the students must answer to demonstrate comprehension.

Chapter Quiz: Quizzes will assess comprehension over the information from the Chapter Study Guides.

Lecture & Discussion: Students will participate in class discussions based on course topics, focusing on the most vital issues and structured to illustrate the issues of historical causality and continuity/change over time. Discussion will also assess student’s prior knowledge and comprehension of assigned readings.

Primary Source Analysis: In each unit the students will read and analyze a variety of Primary Source Documents that are related to the key events, concepts and themes of the given unit of study. Students will analyze the source material and answer questions to ensure understanding and retention of the material.

Unit Test: Following each unit the students will take a test comprised of multiple choice and essay questions to assess comprehension and retention of the unit information.
Student Contributions

All students who participate in Dual Credit US History are expected to read analytically and critically. Students are then expected to answer analytical objective questions and become proficient in writing expository essays with or without documents. **Students will be responsible for reading at least one chapter of a college level text and taking notes over the material each week.** Time management, reading comprehension, critical thinking, note taking, and the ability to see the “big picture” and its component parts are skills need for success. The student is expected to:

1. Attend classes daily, be prepared and be on time
2. Pay attention and take proper notes from class lectures, readings and videos
3. Complete and turn in all homework and assignments on time
4. Be present for all exams
5. Respect the views of others in the class at all times
6. Access Blackboard for assignments-supplemental materials
7. Spend time outside of class studying and preparing for class

CLASS POLICIES

1. EVERY STUDENT MUST:
   - Come to class prepared. Being prepared for class means having in your possession the following items: your binder, your textbook; a working pen and/or a sharpened pencil; any assignments that are due; and something to keep you quietly busy during periods when you are caught up or waiting for the rest of us. A tardy may be assessed for each trip to get class materials after the bell rings.
   - Place name, date and period in the upper right corner of all assignments. There should also be a title on the page for the assignment you are turning in. (5% deduction for failure to comply).
   - Access ASU Blackboard regularly. Blackboard will have your grades, PowerPoints, outlines, and study guides as well as other helpful links and information for the class. Blackboard is your friend.

2. BINDER
   - Students are required to maintain a binder for this class. It will be taken for a grade.

3. QUIZZES AND EXAMS
   - There will be weekly chapter quizzes and comprehensive exams over each unit of study.
   - Quizzes and exams are always announced in advance. Pay attention to Blackboard announcements and Remind notifications.
   - All students are expected to take the quiz or exam if they are present in class on the day it is administered, regardless of an absence on the prior day of class.
   - Makeup quizzes or exams due to an absence are to be completed by appointment. This appointment must be made and completed within one week after you return to school. If this is not accomplished the result will be a zero for that test. The responsibility for makeup is entirely yours.
   - Students may not re-take quizzes or exams.

4. ASSIGNMENTS / HOMEWORK
   - You will have homework every day. Homework assignments are due at the beginning of the period.
   - Individual questions about assignments, grades, paper comments, etc. should be handled before or after class.
   - Assignments are expected to be turned in on their due date. Late assignments will be accepted, but will only receive a maximum of half credit.
   - If you are ever unsure of anything, email or send a message through the remind app to Mrs. Mercer.

5. LATE WORK
   - Late assignments will be accepted for up to one week after the assignment was due, but will only receive a maximum of half credit.
   - Work turned in late on the day it is due will receive a 15% deduction. This is in effect for work completed late in or after class or work forgotten at home.
6. ABSENCES / MAKE UP POLICY
- It is the responsibility of the student to get all assignments missed during an absence. All makeup assignments must be turned in within one week of the absence.
- All assignments given prior to any absence (excused or not) are due the day you return, NOT the day after. Basically, if you know about it, you are responsible for it.
- If a student is on campus for any part of the school day, pre-assigned work must be turned in that day. You may turn it in to Mrs. Mercer’s classroom or her mailbox in the front office.
- Any quizzes or exams will be made up during an appointed time set up between the student and the teacher (Appointment must be made the day you return). Exams and quizzes must be made up after school and be completed within one week after you return to school. If this is not accomplished the result will be a zero for that test.
- A single day or period absence will not excuse you from any quiz or exam scheduled for the day you return IF prior announcement was given (in the form of vocal, calendar, board or written).

7. PARTICIPATION POINTS
- Each student will begin each semester with 100 points for participation. Points may be earned for positive contributions to the class, or lost for negative conduct and not participating. Points shall be taken away for various infractions including, but not limited to, the following:
  - Being disrespectful to Mrs. Mercer or the other students in class; talking in class when you shouldn’t be; unauthorized use of cell phones and/or electronic devices;
  - Failure to come to class prepared. Being prepared for class means having in your possession the following items: your binder, your textbook; a working pen and/or a sharpened pencil; any assignments that are due; and something to keep you quietly busy during periods when you are caught up or waiting for the rest of us. (Homework, book or magazine, etc.);
  - Accumulating more than 4 tardies during a semester.

8. TARDY POLICY
- Students are expected to be in class on time. Consequences for arriving tardy are as follows:
  - 1st Tardy - Verbal Warning
  - 2nd Tardy - Verbal Warning
  - 3rd Tardy - Student/Teacher Conference
  - 4th Tardy - Detention (30 min.) and Parent Contact
  - 5th Tardy - Detention (30 min.) and Parent Contact
  - 6th Tardy - Disciplinary Referral

Detention is held after school, or during the instructor’s conference period. If a student holds a job, or has other commitments at the end of the day, he/she must make other arrangements for that commitment. Any student who does not attend a scheduled Detention is required to attend the following day for 1 hour.

* The teacher reserves the right to use her own discretion when assigning consequences.*

9. CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES
- Cell phones may not be accessed during Dual Credit U.S. History. You must place your cell phone in the bag/pouch provided to you.
- If you use a cell phone or other electronic device, Mrs. Mercer will confiscate the device and turn it in to the office.
- You may expect to turn in your phone and your smart watch in to the instructor during quizzes and exams.

10. BATHROOM POLICY
- The bathroom should be used before and after class – not during. However, I understand that there may be emergencies that occur throughout the semester. Each student will be given 3 bathroom breaks per six weeks. You may turn in unused bathroom passes for 3 extra credit points each. If you do not use a pass the entire six weeks you will be given 10 extra credit points.
11. EXTRA CREDIT

- In addition to extra credit for bathroom passes, students will have three (3) other opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester. Each six weeks there will be an optional project that you may complete for extra credit. More information will be provided as the semester continues.
- I do not round up grade percentages. An 89.4% is a B. Completing extra credit is encouraged.

12. OFFICE HOURS / APPOINTMENTS

- I tend to be in my room most days after school. Feel free to come by and see me or make an appointment if you need help with an assignment or have any concerns you would like to discuss with me.

Academic Honesty Statement

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, violations of published professional ethics/standards, and any act or attempted act designed to give unfair academic advantage to oneself or another student. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on any assignment or exam will result in a grade of “0” with no opportunity of makeup. See the Angelo State University Handbook, Part II B: Academic Integrity for more information.

Student Disability Services

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting: Ms. Dallas A. Swafford, Director of Student Disability Services, (325) 942-2047 or dallas.swafford@angelo.edu.

Title IX

Angelo State University is committed to the safety and security of all students. If you or someone you know experience sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, or discrimination, you may contact ASU’s Title IX Coordinator: Michelle Nicole Boone, J.D., Director of Title IX Compliance, (325) 486-6357 or michelle.boone@angelo.edu.

Student Absence for Observance of a Religious Holy Day

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

ASU Technology

If you have any trouble logging in to Ramport or Blackboard you can contact ASU’s Information Technology Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or 1-866-942-2911.

*If it is necessary to revise any portion of this syllabus, the instructor will inform you in advance of any changes.*