

U.S. History Syllabus

Course Title: U.S. History

Grade Level: 8th–11th Grade

Instructor: Julie Norris

School Year: 2025-2026

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Scripture Theme for the Year

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” – Proverbs 14:34 (ESV)

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the history of the United States from the early indigenous peoples and European colonization to the present day. Students will explore major events, movements, and figures that have shaped the nation's political, economic, social, and spiritual landscape. Emphasis will be placed on understanding cause and effect, evaluating primary sources, and connecting historical events to biblical principles such as justice, liberty, and human dignity.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and explain major events in U.S. history.
 - Understand the foundations of American government and its biblical connections.
 - Examine U.S. involvement in global conflicts and movements.
 - Articulate the role of faith and morality in American history.
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Class Materials

- Textbook: Exploring America by Ray Notgrass, Part 1 and Part 2 (You do not need American Voices)
 - Bible (ESV preferred for devotional/application portions)
 - Notebook or binder for notes
 - Colored pencils/highlighters for timelines and maps
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Biblical Integration

Throughout the year, we will examine how God's providence is seen in the formation and development of the United States. Topics like freedom, justice, leadership, and human dignity will be explored from a biblical worldview, connecting Scripture with history.

Classroom Expectations

- Come prepared and on time.
 - Respect others.
 - Participate actively and thoughtfully.
 - Uphold academic integrity, no AI
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Course Structure

This U.S. History class will provide a comprehensive overview of key events, people, and themes in American history through a combination of weekly lectures, assigned readings, quizzes, tests, and various projects designed to engage students in critical thinking and historical analysis. Students should expect to spend at least 1 hour each day on the material. This course requires students to be able to write at a high school level. Most of the work will be done independently, so academic independence is necessary. Each semester will conclude with a cumulative final exam. Students will be expected to participate actively and manage their time responsibly to meet deadlines and prepare for assessments. Google Classroom will be used as the central hub for class updates, assignments, project details, and grading, ensuring students and parents have consistent access to important course information.

Grading Breakdown

- Homework & Participation: 15%
 - Quizzes: 20%
 - Tests & Projects: 30%
 - Essays & Research: 20%
 - Final Exam: 15%
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Grade

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|------------------|---|
| • 100-90% | A |
| • 89-80% | B |
| • 79-70% | C |
| • 69-60% | D |
| • 59% and below: | F |

Units of Study 1st Semester

Unit	Topic	Time Frame
1	This Is Our Country	1 week
2	English Settlement of America	1 week
3	English Colonies in the 1700s	1 week
4	Revolution	1 week
5	The Constitution	1 week
6	The New Nation	1 week
7	An Expanding Nation	1 week
8	Growing Pains	1 week
9	Democrats and Whigs	1 week
10	Challenges and Changes	1 week
11	A Time of Crisis	1 week
12	The Nation Divides	1 week
13	The Terrible Conflict	1 week
14	Reconstruction	1 week
15	Moving Forward	1 Week

Some Key Projects

- Founding Fathers Character Analysis (Biblical virtues in leadership)
- WWI or WWII Timeline Project
- Oral History Interview with an older relative or community member
- Final Research Project (Student-selected topic approved by teacher)