

USHIST101 | US History I

Course Text

Brinkley, Alan. *The Unfinished Nation: A Concise History of the American People*, 10th edition, McGraw-Hill, 2022. ISBN: 9781260726831

The text is provided digitally as part of the course enrollment. Students may find used, new, or rental print copies by searching for the ISBN.

Course Description

This course focuses on the characteristics of societies existing in the Americas prior to 1877. Students learn about pre-Columbian Indigenous societies and their impact on the social and cultural landscape of the Americas. In turn, this course examines the impact of European exploration and colonization of the "New World" on Europe, Africa, and the young United States. Students explore the transformation of the American landscape due to colonial competition among England, France, and Spain. In addition, this course discusses the development of colonies like Virginia and South Carolina as well as the evolution of the institution of slavery across the Thirteen Colonies. Specific causes of the American Revolution are examined as well as the emergence of the United States of America and the development of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Moreover, the evolution of the American presidency is analyzed through the western and industrial expansion from the Jeffersonian era through Abraham Lincoln's presidency. Students also examine the causes and events of the Civil War, and they evaluate how Reconstruction plans succeeded or failed.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply historical research skills to major themes in American History to 1877.
2. Detect the causes of European exploration and colonization in the New World and assess the impact of these activities on Europe, Africa, and the Americas.
3. Explain how political, religious, economic, and social institutions emerged in the American Colonies.
4. Specify the causes of the American Revolution and evaluate the impact of the Revolution on politics, the economy, and society.
5. Recognize how the institutions and practices of government evolved to create the foundation of the American political system.
6. Explain territorial expansion from 1801 to 1877 and assess its effects on relations with Native Americans and external powers.
7. Recognize how the Industrial Revolution and Western expansion changed the lives of Americans.

8. Specify the major causes and events of the Civil War and assess the impact of the war on the American people.
9. Summarize the sources and character of cultural, religious, and social reform movements in the antebellum period.
10. Explain how various Reconstruction plans succeeded or failed.
11. Analyze a primary source historical artifact and apply critical thinking to answer questions about its historical relevance.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites to take this course.

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an honest, truthful and responsible manner. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and academic misconduct. Failure to comply with the Academic Integrity Policy can result in a failure and/or zero on the attempted assignment/examination, a removal from the course, disqualification to enroll in future courses, and/or revocation of an academic transcript. Penalties for academic integrity violations can be retroactively applied upon discovery, and at our discretion.

Course Completion Policy

In order for a course to be considered complete, **all required coursework must be attempted, submitted, and graded.** Required coursework consists of graded assignments. Any Academic Integrity Policy violations may prevent a course from being considered complete.

Course Evaluation Criteria

Your score provides a percentage score and letter grade for each course. A passing percentage is 70% or higher.

There are a total of 1000 points in the course:

Topic	Assessment	Points	Learning Outcomes
3	Reflective Response: Examining Causes	10	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
4	Graded Exam 1	150	1, 2, 3, 4
6	Reflective Response: Multiple Perspectives on History	10	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7	Assignment: Primary Source Analysis	150	1, 5, 11
8	Graded Exam 2	150	1, 3, 4, 5
9	Reflective Response: Leadership and the Shape of History	10	1, 3, 5
11	Reflective Response: Technology and History	10	1, 7, 9
12	Graded Exam 3	150	1, 7, 9

13	Reflective Response: Cultural Exchange	10	1, 2, 7, 9
14	Assignment: Compare and Contrast Historical Events	200	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
15	Graded Exam 4	150	8, 9, 10
Total		1000	

Course Roadmap *Graded items in **bold***

Intro | Introduction and Getting Started

Subtopics

- Welcome
- Academic Honesty

Assignments

- Welcome video
- Textbook Information
- Academic Honesty and Integrity Lesson
- Statement of Academic Honesty and Integrity (required)

Topic 1 | Old and New Worlds Meet

Subtopics

- Before Columbus
- Looking Westward
- The British Connection

Assignments

- Chapter 1 Presentation
- Chapter 1 Reading
- Chapter 1 Checkpoint
- Pathfinder: The Americas Before and After the Advent of the Europeans

Topic 2 | Early Settlements

Subtopics

- Chesapeake Colonies
- New England Colonies
- British, Spanish, and French Colonies Elsewhere
- British Authority

Assignments

- Chapter 2 Presentation
- Chapter 2 Reading
- Chapter 2 Checkpoint

Topic 3 | Living in Colonial America

Subtopics

Assignments

- Demographics and Social Patterns
- Commerce and Consumerism
- Enlightenment and Great Awakening

- Chapter 3 Presentation
- Chapter 3 Reading
- Chapter 3 Checkpoint
- **Reflective Response: Examining Causes**

Topic 4 | Road to Revolution

Subtopics

- Seven Years' War
- Imperialism in Peril
- On the Brink of Revolt

Assignments

- Chapter 4 Presentation
- Chapter 4 Reading
- Chapter 4 Checkpoint
- **Graded Exam 1**

Topic 5 | The American Revolution

Subtopics

- The Decision for Independence
- War of Independence
- Impact of the War

Assignments

- Chapter 5 Presentation
- Chapter 5 Reading, Pages 107-124
- Pathfinder: The American Revolution

Topic 6 | The Constitution

Subtopics

- State Constitutions
- Confederation
- From Confederation to Constitution

Assignments

- Chapter 5 Reading, Pages 124-132
- Chapter 5 Checkpoint
- Chapter 6 Presentation
- Chapter 6 Reading, Pages 134-142
- **Reflective Response: Multiple Perspectives on History**

Topic 7 | The New Republic

Subtopics

- New Government
- National Sovereignty
- Political Parties

Assignments

- Chapter 6 Reading, Pages 143-153
- Chapter 6 Checkpoint
- **Assignment: Primary Source Analysis**

Topic 8 | Jeffersonian Era

Subtopics

- Early Nineteenth Century Life
- President Jefferson
- Expansion and Conflict
- American Nationalism

Assignments

- Chapter 7 Presentation
- Chapter 7 Reading
- Chapter 7 Checkpoint
- Chapter 8 Presentation
- Chapter 8 Reading
- Chapter 8 Checkpoint
- **Graded Exam 2**

Topic 9 | Jacksonian Era

Subtopics

- New Politics
- Andrew Jackson
- Two Parties Emerge

Assignments

- Chapter 9 Presentation
- Chapter 9 Reading
- Chapter 9 Checkpoint
- **Reflective Response: Leadership and the Shape of History**

Topic 10 | Economic Revolution

Subtopics

- Population Changes
- Transportation and Communication
- Commerce, Agriculture, and Industry

Assignments

- Chapter 10 Presentation
- Chapter 10 Reading
- Chapter 10 Checkpoint

Topic 11 | The Old South

Subtopics

- King Cotton
- White Society in the South
- The "Peculiar Institution"

Assignments

- Chapter 11 Presentation
- Chapter 11 Reading
- Chapter 11 Checkpoint
- **Reflective Response: Technology and History**

Topic 12 | Antebellum Period

Subtopics

- Revivalism and Romanticism
- Reform
- Abolitionism

Assignments

- Chapter 12 Presentation
- Chapter 12 Reading
- Chapter 12 Checkpoint
- **Graded Exam 3**

Topic 13 | Build Up to War

Subtopics

- Western Expansion
- Sectionalism
- Time of Crises

Assignments

- Chapter 13 Presentation
- Chapter 13 Reading
- Chapter 13 Checkpoint
- **Reflective Response: Cultural Exchange**

Topic 14 | The Civil War

Subtopics

- The War Begins
- The Union and Confederacy at War
- The Course of the War

Assignments

- Chapter 14 Presentation
- Chapter 14 Reading
- Chapter 14 Checkpoint
- **Assignment: Compare and Contrast Historical Events**

Topic 15 | Reconstruction

Subtopics

- Implementing Reconstruction
- Impact of Reconstruction on the South
- Abandoning Reconstruction

Assignments

- Chapter 15 Presentation
- Chapter 15 Reading
- Chapter 15 Checkpoint
- Pathfinder: The American Civil War
- **Graded Exam 4**

Topic 16 | Wrap Up

Subtopics

- Complete all course assignments
- End of Course Survey

Assignments

- End of Course Survey
- Wrap up video

Related Courses

**USHIST102: United
States History II**

**BIO101:
Introduction to
Biology**

**BIO101L:
Introduction to
Biology Lab**