# United States History I

## Course Description

This course provides students with an introduction to the major political, economic, cultural, and social developments in United States history, from the first human settlement in North American and the founding of indigenous communities, through the early European explorations and colonial settlements, to the establishment of the United States and its founding principles, to the country’s near dissolution in the American Civil War, and concluding with the termination of the Reconstruction era.

## Required Text

## The text that accompanies this course is *Making America*. (Berkin, 2015; 7th edition)

## Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Learning Outcomes

* Outline the overall narrative of United States history, and the details of its political, economic, social, intellectual, and cultural development, including understanding of the unity, diversity, and fractures within American society.
* Recognize the major events, ideas, trends, movements, uprisings, and problems in United States history to 1877.
* Define the origins of the contact between North America, Europe, and Africa and recognize the consequences of those interactions, including the tensions that exist within a diverse population.
* Recognize the basis for regional economies, regional subcultures, and sectionalism within the country.
* Recognize how past history has shaped present circumstances, including the history of racial injustice and class inequity in the United States, and the rise and role of political parties in expressing and directing American attitudes.
* Define key terms and identify key personalities central to understanding United States history.

## Course Topics

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| Category/Topics | Learning Content |
| Indigenous Americans and the Arrival of Europeans | Conditions leading to settlement of the Western HemisphereHow climate and environment affected the development of human settlersThe formation of separate indigenous peoplesHow agriculture led to the creation of population centersHow conditions in Europe led to exploration of the New WorldThe impact of European politics on exploration of the New WorldThe origin of European slave traffickingDevelopment of the Plantation Model of slaveryThe Columbian Exchange |
| Mercantilism and Colonization | The role of European rivalries in conquest and settlement of the AmericasThe role of religion in European rivalriesThe role of silver in the enslavement and genocide of indigenous populationsMercantilism and European colonialismThe role of fur tradingThe beginnings of mixed heritage ancestry in Mexico and among French fur tradersNative American responses and adaptationsConditions affecting colonial settlement |
| Settling the Thirteen Colonies | The first English coloniesHow events in England impacted settlement in AmericaThe Pilgrims and the Mayflower CompactThe role of religion in English settlement Anglo-Indian relationsThe role and impact of tobacco |
| Life in the Colonies | Colonial economies and English controlThe Caribbean sugar islands and slave laborThe introduction of slavery to the mainlandThe shift from indentured servitude to slaveryThe institutionalization of slaveryThe Triangular TradeRegional differencesThe 18th century population explosionSlave revolts and class tensionsIntellectual currents: The Age of Reason and the Great AwakeningGovernment in the coloniesThe French and Indian Wars |
| Towards an Independent Nation | * The new shape of settler-Indian relations
* Taxing the colonies
* The beginnings of colonial revolt
* Colonial leaders
* The Boston Massacre
* The Boston Tea Party
* Britain’s Intolerable Acts
* The First Continental Congress debates the issues
* War begins
* The Second Continental Congress and the Continental Army
* The Declaration of Independence
* The Loyalist position
* African Americans and the Revolution
* Native Americans and the Revolution
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| The War for Independence | The Battle of Bunker HillThe southern and mid-Atlantic campaignsA turning point in the war: The Saratoga campaignWinter at Valley ForgeDiplomacy and the war effortBritain’s devastating loss at YorktownNegotiating independenceEstablishing American valuesSeparation of Church and StateDivisions in the countryThe fate of LoyalistsNative Americans after the warWomen’s statusThe status of African Americans and northern abolition |
| Creating a New Republic | The creation of state constitutionsIssues in the creation of a central governmentThe Articles of ConfederationStates’ rights versus national unityBalance of power among the statesVoting rightsCreating a national financial systemTension in the continuing New World presence of Britain and SpainA land policy for settling the frontierNegotiating the ConstitutionCreating a balance of power within the federal governmentThe Bill of RightsPopular uprisings and Indian wars |
| Growing the Nation | Divergent visions: The first political partiesThe peaceful transition of powerForeign interference in an electionAnti-immigration sentiment: The Alien ActsSilencing free speech: The Sedition ActRevising the Electoral College*Marbury v. Madison* and the power of the federal courtsThe Louisiana PurchaseThe Lewis and Clark ExpeditionThe effects of rapid western growthReligion and social changeThe socially excluded |
| War and Growth | Political rivalry: Burr and HamiltonSteering a course for America in the Napoleonic WarsConditions on the frontierAn Indian revival movementNational destiny and land-cession treatiesThe Battle of TippecanoeThe War of 1812British–Indian alliancesIndian-fighting as a basis for political careersThe growth of American manufacturingEuropean settlement moves westwardThe “Indian removal” policyThe rise of King Cotton and the spread of slavery |
| Aggressive Americanism | American nationalismProtectionism in tradeThe end of the Federalist PartyNew ventures in land and water transportationAggressive diplomacyThe Monroe Doctrine and European colonialismRegional differencesSlavery and the Missouri CompromiseThe new electorateCreation of the Democratic PartyAndrew Jackson the OutsiderAndrew Jackson, Bad Faith, and the Indian Removal Act of 1830Native American efforts to fight in the courtsThe Trail of TearsCrises in Jackson’s presidency |
| Life in an Expanding Country | Society in the Southern cotton-based economySociety in the manufacturing economy of the NortheastFur trapping opens the westThe lure to move westThe Mormon migrationLife in the Southern frontierThe Spanish SouthwestSettling TexasNew Mexico and the Santa Fe TrailThe California mission systemThe Oregon CountryNew technologies connecting the country |
| Towards a National Identity | Emerson and TranscendentalismThoreau’s TranscendentalismLiterary figures, male and femaleEmergent painting stylesPopular cultureThe culture of African American slavesUtopian socialism and experimental communitiesThe Second Great AwakeningReform movements and reformersBeginnings of the American labor movementA new Whig partyAmerican Expansionism and Manifest DestinyThe status of the Oregon CountryRevolution in Texas |
| The Decline Towards War | Leaders of the antislavery movementWar with MexicoNew third partiesGrowing nativism and the Know-Nothing movementOngoing controversy over slavery in new territoriesEconomic interconnectedness and the changing economyDecline of the Whig PartyThe Young America movementCompetition over the transcontinental railroadVoter choice and voter chaos in KansasFormation of the anti-slavery Republican PartyThe end of civil discourseThe Dred Scott CaseJohn Brown’s attack on Harper’s FerryThe election of 1860The timeline of secessionThe onset of the Civil War |  |
| Five Years of Civil War | The expansion of presidential powerThe opening status of the UnionThe opening status of the ConfederacyUnion war strategyConfederate war strategyBull Run: the first major battle and its aftermathMajor battles, theaters, and campaigns of the Civil WarThe Emancipation Proclamation and its significanceConscription and class strifeThe wartime economyWomen in wartimeSlaves and free blacks in the warWartime medical concernsPrison campsThe erosion of Lincoln’s supportTurning point: The Battle of GettysburgControl of the MississippiGrant, Sherman, and Total WarLincoln’s reelectionThe death of President LincolnThe end of the war and its outcome |
| Reconstructing the Nation | Competing visions for reunificationThe Free Labor SystemThe Freedmen’s BureauBlack communal institutionsPolitical activism in the black communityLand redistribution and sharecroppingBlack codesThe emergence of the Ku Klux KlanStriving for black civil rightsThe impeachment of Andrew JohnsonBlack ReconstructionWhite Republicans in the SouthThe failure of equal accessTerrorism and the Democratic PartyThe Compromise of 1877 and the end of Reconstruction |

## Study Questions

Study questions are similar to homework assignments for reviewing and supplementing what you have learned in a lesson. You can repeat the questions as preferred, but will need to achieve a score of 80% or higher on the study questions associated with a lesson before that lesson is marked as complete. You will then receive the appropriate proportion of the total number of points available for the study questions based on their overall average score for all study questions in the course.

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## Course Time Limit

This course is self-paced, which means you can complete the course requirements at a pace that is comfortable for you. However, there is an overall time limit of 180 days to complete each course, starting from the date on which you registered. This time limit is indicated on your Courses screen as “Course Period.”

Once the time limit has passed, you will no longer be able to attempt any further activities or assessments. Assuming you have not yet attempted the Final Exam, you can immediately unregister and reregister for the course to start over. Otherwise, you will be required to wait to reregister per our Course Retake Policy.

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## Course Retake Policy

There is a one-week waiting period before this course can be re-taken, starting from the date of the last Final Exam attempt.

To retake the course, first unregister from the course on your Courses screen. If it has been over a week since your last attempt, you will then be able to register for this course again.

Your highest final score for the course will be used for the transcript.

## Exams

There are a total of four exams for this course as described below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Exam** | **Coverage** | **Number of Multiple-Choice Questions** | **Time Limit, Minutes** |
| **First** | Lessons 1-11 | 25 | 60 |
| **Midterm** | Lessons 12-27 with some review of topics from Lessons 1-15 | 50 | 120 |
| **Third** | Lessons 28-40 | 25 | 60 |
| **Final** | Cumulative; everything taught in the course with an emphasis on content from the last half (and particularly the last quarter) of the course | 50 | 120 |

## Grading

To determine your level of mastery for this course, you will earn points by successfully completing the learning and evaluation activities below in sequence.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Source | Points Available |
| Study Questions | 300 |
| Graded Exam #1 | 100 |
| Midterm Exam | 200 |
| Graded Exam #2 | 100 |
| Final Exam | 300 |

Upon completion of the course and the grading source activities, InstantCert will provide you with a percentage score. The minimum passing score is 700 points, or an overall course grade of 70%.

**Important! Only a passing score on a course marked 100% complete (including the proctored final exam) is eligible for college credit.**

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## Proctoring of the Final Exam

A proctor is a person who monitors the work of another person who is taking an examination. Online proctoring services allow you to take the working remotely and in the same way as if you were sitting in an exam room. Proctoring ensures that the test you take complies with current college level examination policies.

Proctoring is used only for the final exam. It is offered through the online proctoring service RPNow at the Software Secure web site. You will pay a separate fee to RPNow for each final exam attempt.

RPNow requires that students download and install proprietary software. They will need to use a PC or a Mac with a webcam. Students can review the full system requirements for RPNow at:

<http://clientportal.softwaresecure.com/support/index.php?/Knowledgebase/Article/View/252/0/system-requirements-remote-proctor-now>

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## Exam Retake Policy

Both graded exams, the midterm and the final exam can be retaken ONCE. There is a 3-day waiting period before you will be allowed to retake an exam. If you retake an exam, the higher result of your two attempts will be used to calculate your final score.

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## Academic Integrity

You are required to comply with the InstantCert full Student Code of Conduct, which specifically prohibits cheating or any other academically dishonest behavior. Violation of any part of the Student Code of Conduct can result in a grade reduction or even suspension from the course.

## Software Requirements

The operating system, browser, internet access and speed are provided below for use with courses from the InstantCert web site.

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| --- | --- |
| **Operating Systems** | * Windows XP and above
* Mac OS X
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| **Browsers** | * The latest version of Chrome, Firefox of Safari
* IE9 or higher
 |
| **Internet and Speed** | Broadband Internet; 1Mbps or higher |

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## Accessibility and Disability Accommodations

InstantCert strives to make online education accessible to people everywhere in the following ways:

* All course content is available online, accessible from anywhere through an Internet connection.
* All video lessons include a transcript for use by those who are hearing impaired and/or by students that wish to have written copies of the lessons.
* All video lessons have close captioning.
* Lesson pages can be navigated by screen readers.
* Videos may be replayed an unlimited amount of times. Video speed can be increased or slowed.
* Lesson transcripts and quizzes can be printed for offline use.
* The proctoring software RPNow works with screen readers.