# 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 Hemisphere  How climate and environment affected the development of human settlers  The formation of separate indigenous peoples  How agriculture led to the creation of population centers  How conditions in Europe led to exploration of the New World  The impact of European politics on exploration of the New World  The origin of European slave trafficking  Development of the Plantation Model of slavery  The Columbian Exchange |
| Mercantilism and Colonization | The role of European rivalries in conquest and settlement of the Americas  The role of religion in European rivalries  The role of silver in the enslavement and genocide of indigenous populations  Mercantilism and European colonialism  The role of fur trading  The beginnings of mixed heritage ancestry in Mexico and among French fur traders  Native American responses and adaptations  Conditions affecting colonial settlement |
| Settling the Thirteen Colonies | The first English colonies  How events in England impacted settlement in America  The Pilgrims and the Mayflower Compact  The role of religion in English settlement  Anglo-Indian relations  The role and impact of tobacco |
| Life in the Colonies | Colonial economies and English control  The Caribbean sugar islands and slave labor  The introduction of slavery to the mainland  The shift from indentured servitude to slavery  The institutionalization of slavery  The Triangular Trade  Regional differences  The 18th century population explosion  Slave revolts and class tensions  Intellectual currents: The Age of Reason and the Great Awakening  Government in the colonies  The 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 |
| The War for Independence | The Battle of Bunker Hill  The southern and mid-Atlantic campaigns  A turning point in the war: The Saratoga campaign  Winter at Valley Forge  Diplomacy and the war effort  Britain’s devastating loss at Yorktown  Negotiating independence  Establishing American values  Separation of Church and State  Divisions in the country  The fate of Loyalists  Native Americans after the war  Women’s status  The status of African Americans and northern abolition |
| Creating a New Republic | The creation of state constitutions  Issues in the creation of a central government  The Articles of Confederation  States’ rights versus national unity  Balance of power among the states  Voting rights  Creating a national financial system  Tension in the continuing New World presence of Britain and Spain  A land policy for settling the frontier  Negotiating the Constitution  Creating a balance of power within the federal government  The Bill of Rights  Popular uprisings and Indian wars |
| Growing the Nation | Divergent visions: The first political parties  The peaceful transition of power  Foreign interference in an election  Anti-immigration sentiment: The Alien Acts  Silencing free speech: The Sedition Act  Revising the Electoral College  *Marbury v. Madison* and the power of the federal courts  The Louisiana Purchase  The Lewis and Clark Expedition  The effects of rapid western growth  Religion and social change  The socially excluded |
| War and Growth | Political rivalry: Burr and Hamilton  Steering a course for America in the Napoleonic Wars  Conditions on the frontier  An Indian revival movement  National destiny and land-cession treaties  The Battle of Tippecanoe  The War of 1812  British–Indian alliances  Indian-fighting as a basis for political careers  The growth of American manufacturing  European settlement moves westward  The “Indian removal” policy  The rise of King Cotton and the spread of slavery |
| Aggressive Americanism | American nationalism  Protectionism in trade  The end of the Federalist Party  New ventures in land and water transportation  Aggressive diplomacy  The Monroe Doctrine and European colonialism  Regional differences  Slavery and the Missouri Compromise  The new electorate  Creation of the Democratic Party  Andrew Jackson the Outsider  Andrew Jackson, Bad Faith, and the Indian Removal Act of 1830  Native American efforts to fight in the courts  The Trail of Tears  Crises in Jackson’s presidency |
| Life in an Expanding Country | Society in the Southern cotton-based economy  Society in the manufacturing economy of the Northeast  Fur trapping opens the west  The lure to move west  The Mormon migration  Life in the Southern frontier  The Spanish Southwest  Settling Texas  New Mexico and the Santa Fe Trail  The California mission system  The Oregon Country  New technologies connecting the country |
| Towards a National Identity | Emerson and Transcendentalism  Thoreau’s Transcendentalism  Literary figures, male and female  Emergent painting styles  Popular culture  The culture of African American slaves  Utopian socialism and experimental communities  The Second Great Awakening  Reform movements and reformers  Beginnings of the American labor movement  A new Whig party  American Expansionism and Manifest Destiny  The status of the Oregon Country  Revolution in Texas |
| The Decline Towards War | Leaders of the antislavery movement  War with Mexico  New third parties  Growing nativism and the Know-Nothing movement  Ongoing controversy over slavery in new territories  Economic interconnectedness and the changing economy  Decline of the Whig Party  The Young America movement  Competition over the transcontinental railroad  Voter choice and voter chaos in Kansas  Formation of the anti-slavery Republican Party  The end of civil discourse  The Dred Scott Case  John Brown’s attack on Harper’s Ferry  The election of 1860  The timeline of secession  The onset of the Civil War |  |
| Five Years of Civil War | The expansion of presidential power  The opening status of the Union  The opening status of the Confederacy  Union war strategy  Confederate war strategy  Bull Run: the first major battle and its aftermath  Major battles, theaters, and campaigns of the Civil War  The Emancipation Proclamation and its significance  Conscription and class strife  The wartime economy  Women in wartime  Slaves and free blacks in the war  Wartime medical concerns  Prison camps  The erosion of Lincoln’s support  Turning point: The Battle of Gettysburg  Control of the Mississippi  Grant, Sherman, and Total War  Lincoln’s reelection  The death of President Lincoln  The end of the war and its outcome |
| Reconstructing the Nation | Competing visions for reunification  The Free Labor System  The Freedmen’s Bureau  Black communal institutions  Political activism in the black community  Land redistribution and sharecropping  Black codes  The emergence of the Ku Klux Klan  Striving for black civil rights  The impeachment of Andrew Johnson  Black Reconstruction  White Republicans in the South  The failure of equal access  Terrorism and the Democratic Party  The 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 |
| **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.