

**Prerequisite courses:** none

**Grade level:** 9-12

## Course Description

This course focuses on the early development of the nation from pre-colonial times to the end of Reconstruction. Students will explore the early cultures of North America, the Age of Discovery, the formation of the Thirteen Colonies, and the causes and outcomes of the American Revolution. The course also covers the formation of the U.S. government, the challenges of the new nation, the expansion of democracy, and the growing tensions that led to the Civil War. By examining key historical events, figures, and movements, students will gain an understanding of how early American society and politics shaped the nation we know today.

This course is part of the Exceptional Students Course Suite, designed for high school students working three or more grade levels behind. The Exceptional Students courses are ideal for students whose IEPs allow them to earn credit for below-grade-level coursework.

## Course Objectives

Students will meet the following goals in this course.

- Understand the early history of North America, including indigenous cultures and the European exploration and colonization of the continent.
- Analyze the causes and key events leading to the American Revolution, as well as the formation of the U.S. government and its foundational documents.
- Examine the expansion of democracy in the early republic, including the impact of key political figures and court decisions.
- Investigate the role of westward expansion and the concept of Manifest Destiny in shaping American identity and society.
- Study the economic, social, and political factors leading to sectionalism and the causes of the Civil War.
- Evaluate the significance of Reconstruction and the constitutional amendments that aimed to rebuild the nation and expand civil rights.

## Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from students as a traditional classroom course. Students are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on:

- interactive lessons, which include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks.
- assignments, in which they apply and extend learning in each lesson.
- assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams.

# US History Essentials I

## Communication

Teachers will communicate with students regularly through discussions, emails, chats, and system announcements. Students will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, to collaborate, ask and answer questions in peer groups, and develop speaking and listening skills.

## Grading Policy

Students will be graded on work completed online and work submitted electronically to the teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Assignments	20%
Lesson quizzes	30%
Unit tests	30%
Cumulative exams	20%

## Scope and Sequence

When students log on to Imagine Edgenuity, they can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics under study. The units of study are listed below

Course Units
Unit 1: The New World and the Thirteen Colonies
Unit 2: War of Independence
Unit 3: A New Nation
Unit 4: Sectionalism and Rising Tensions
Unit 5: The Civil War