US History Essentials

Course Overview and Syllabus



Prerequisite courses: none Grade level: 9-12

Course Description

Students will learn about foundational World History concepts and skills as they examine the Renaissance, Enlightenment and the Scientific Revolution, Imperialism, International Conflict, and Globalization/Modern Issues. Skills focuses include analyzing secondary and primary sources, interpreting charts, graphs, and maps, and writing short responses and essays.

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.

- Examine the impact of the creation of black codes throughout the South.
- Explain the effects of westward expansion on Indigenous populations in the region.
- Describe the factors that led the US to grow more imperialistic in the 1800s.
- Describe the reactions of democratic powers to the spread of communism in Europe.
- Explain the nonviolent movements that began in the early civil rights movement.
- Explain the work of individuals and organizations to defend human rights.
- Identify key modern technological advancements and innovations.

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.

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.

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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: Reconstruction
Unit 2: Progressivism and Imperialism
Unit 3: World Wars
Unit 4: Post War Issues
Unit 5: Modern Era