
NMH SUMMER SESSION

2010
College Prep Program
UNITED STATES HISTORY

This course was a survey of the history of the United States, covering the work of a full-year course. Topics included colonization, the causes and effects of the American Revolution, events leading up to the Civil War and its aftermath, the Industrial Revolution and the coming of age of the United States, World War I and World War II, the Great Depression and the New Deal, and the Cold War. Films, primary and secondary source materials, and a variety of classroom activities brought to life topics of the past and provided insight into the critical issues of the nation's history. Writing and research assignments, including a term-long, independent research paper, emphasized the use of supporting evidence in clear, coherent essays in order to assess critically a variety of issues in U.S. history. The course introduced the students to historical inquiry and stimulated creative investigation into the origins and character of American civilization. They were asked to constantly consider the question: What does it mean to be an American?

READINGS AND MATERIALS:

Roark, James L., Michael P. Johnson, Patricia Cline Cohen, et.al. *The American Promise: A History of the United States*, fourth ed. Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009

Mintz, Steven. "Online American History Textbook." *Digital History*
<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/hyper_titles.cfm>

Various assigned primary source materials

Textbook companion website: <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/roark/default.asp>

COURSE GOALS AND CHALLENGES:

Developing an understanding of what it has meant and now means to be an American

Furthering independent learning skills

Enhancing writing abilities

Working cooperatively in a group setting

Analyzing historical context

Interpreting statistical data

Prioritizing historical evidence

Evaluating alternative positions

Clarifying the connections between past controversies and present issues

TOPIC OUTLINE

UNIT ONE: A NEW REPUBLIC

The British Empire and the Colonial Crisis, 1754-1755

The War for America, 1775-1783

Building a Republic, 1775-1789

The New Nation Takes Form, 1789-1800

Republicans in Power, 1800-1824

UNIT TWO: EXPANSION AND THE CIVIL WAR

The Expanding Republic, 1815-1840

The New West and Free North, 1840-1860

The Slave South, 1820-1860

The House Divided, 1846-1861

The Crucible of War, 1861-1865

Reconstruction, 1863-1877

UNIT THREE: ENGINES OF CHANGE

Business and Politics in the Gilded Age, 1870-1895

The City and Its Workers, 1870-1900

Dissent, Depression, and War, 1890-1900

Progressivism from the Grass Roots to the White House, 1890-1916

UNIT FOUR: STATE AND SOCIETY IN A WORLD OF STRIFE

World War I: The Progressive Crusade at Home and Abroad, 1914-1920

From New Era to Great Depression, 1920-1932

The New Deal Experiment, 1932-1939

The United States and the Second World War, 1939-1945

UNIT FIVE: WORLD POWER, OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITS

Cold War Politics in the Truman Years, 1945-1953

The Politics and Culture of Abundance, 1952-1960

Reform, Rebellion, and Reaction, 1960-1974

Vietnam and the Limits of Power, 1961-1975

America Moves to the Right, 1969-1989

The class met for three hours, six mornings per week, plus 1.5 hours, four afternoons per week, for the five-week session.

Master Teacher: Kelly Griffin
Bates College

Teaching Intern: Julia Harnett
Connecticut College