



COVINGTON LATIN SCHOOL

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UNITED STATES HISTORY AND CIVICS

Text:

America: History of Our Nation, Prentice Hall, 2014

Prerequisites:

Acceptance into the Prep year at Covington Latin School

Description:

United States History and Civics for the Prep Year is a survey course, beginning with the Meso-American period and continuing to the 21st century. The course is organized thematically around Essential Questions, and includes inquiry based on primary sources. The students will also learn about our country's founding documents, have an introduction to economics and learn about civic engagement with various levels of government.

Course Goals:

- To learn how to read a map and time line
- To develop competency at both reading and creating maps, graphs, charts and other organizational tools from data
- To develop an outline of notes based on the assigned text
- To write an original paper based on a reading of an original historical document
- To develop competency in written answers to questions.

Course Objectives:

- To understand how American History applies to actions in today's world
- To understand how to interpret original historical documents
- To understand the relationships between historical events.
- To understand the influences on the development of the United States

Course Sequence:

Unit 1: Beginnings of American History

- How did the colonists, with strong roots in the past, develop their own way of life?
 - Roots of the American People -Prehistory-1500
 - Europe Looks Outward -1000-1720
 - Colonies Take Root -1587-1752
 - Life in the Colonies -1650-1750

Unit 2: Forming a New Nation

- How did the colonists break away from Britain and create a republican form of government?
 - The Road to Revolution – 1745-1776
 - The American Revolution – 1776-1783

- Creating the Constitution – 1776-1790

Unit 3: The New Republic

- What problems might a new nation face?
 - The New Republic – 1789-1800
 - The Era of Thomas Jefferson – 1800-1815
 - A Changing Nation – 1815-1840

Unit 4: The Nation Changes and Expands

- What forces unite and divide a nation?
 - North and South Take Different Paths – 1800-1845
 - An Age of Reform – 1820-1860
 - Westward Expansion – 1820-1860

Unit 5: Civil War and Reunion

- How was the Civil War a political, economic, and social turning point?
 - The Nation Divided – 1846-1861
 - The Civil War – 1861-1865
 - Reconstruction and the New South – 1863-1896

Unit 6: An Age of Industry

- How did the industrialization of the US change the economy, society and politics of the nation?
 - The West Transformed – 1860-1896
 - Industry and Urban Growth – 1865-1915
 - Political Reform and the Progressive Era – 1870-1920

Unit 7: A New Role in the World

- How did a more powerful United States expand its role in the world?
 - The United States Looks Overseas – 1853-1915
 - World War I – 1914-1919
 - The Roaring Twenties – 1919-1929

Unit 8: Depression and War

- How did the United States deal with crises in domestic and foreign affairs?
 - The Great Depression and the New Deal – 1929-1941
 - The World War II Era – 1935-1945
 - The United States in the Cold War – 1945-1963

Unit 9: Moving Toward the Future

- How did the US strive to strengthen democracy at home and to foster democracy abroad?
 - The Civil Rights Era – 1945-1975
 - The Vietnam Era – 1954-1976
 - New Directions for a Nation – 1977-2000
 - Challenges for a New Century – 1980-present

Civics, Government and Economics

- United States Constitution
- Citizenship
- Economics

Evaluation:

Evaluations will be made in a number of ways. Regular assignments will be given, both to encourage close reading of the text, and to stimulate critical thinking about the text. There will be occasional quizzes. Students will be quizzed on maps to ensure a basic understanding of the geography of the US. Tests will be multi-chapter, and after the first semester, will be almost completely written answers and essays. Students will write one historical essay, and participate in one or more group projects. The semester exams will be a mix of cumulative, thematic questions, and questions focused on the units directly preceding the exam. Both the 1st and 2nd semester exams are mandatory, no exemptions are given.

Supplementary Materials:

The text will be supplemented with original documents, video presentations – from History Channel, PBS, and other material from the CLS library and community libraries. Examples of such video presentations include: America: The Story of Us; US History, New Dimensions Media; Lewis and Clark *The Journey of the Corps of Discovery*; America: the birth of freedom.