

Course Information

- **Course Title:** American History
- **Instructor:** Tim Shaw
- **Email:** trshaw7@hotmail.com
- **Curriculum:** Notgrass History: Exploring America Package:
 - Exploring America Part 1: Columbus Through Reconstruction
 - Exploring America Part 2: Late 1800s to the Present
 - American Voices

Course Description

Explore the history of the United States from the earliest explorers to the present day. This course traces the development of American society, politics, and culture, with particular attention to how our national story fits within historical, global, and Christian contexts. Students will examine key events and themes—such as revolution, civil war, industrialization, immigration, civil rights, and globalization, through secondary sources and primary documents.

In addition to building factual knowledge, students will engage with historiography: the study of how history is written. We'll explore how different historians—and different schools of thought—interpret the same events in contrasting ways.

Students will read a comprehensive high school-level history text alongside related historical documents. Students will complete 30 weekly writing projects focused on mastering historical content and learning to tell the story of the past clearly, thoughtfully, and with attention to its deeper meaning.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain key events, figures, and ideas in U.S. history.
2. Retell historical narratives clearly and accurately in their own words.
3. Understand the historical roots of contemporary American life.
4. Recognize how historical interpretation varies over time and across perspectives.

Assignments and grading

Students will read the daily lessons in Notgrass History and the accompanying primary sources in American Voices. Weekly writing assignments will be the primary means of assessing progress. History is a narrative—and it's best understood (and enjoyed!) when students can retell it in their own words.

Each week, students will complete a 300–500 word written narration of the period, or a key event, person, or theme from the week's material. They may draw on any combination of class discussion, the textbook, or primary sources to craft their response. Alternatively, Notgrass provides essay prompts for each unit, which may also be used.

Testing is not a component of this course. However, for families who prefer it, Notgrass offers the Exploring America Quiz and Exam Book as well as the Exploring America Guide for Parents and Answer Key. These are sold separately by Notgrass History.

Part 1

Sept 8: **This is Our Country**

Sept 15: **English Settlement of America**

Sept 22: **English Colonies in the 1700s**

Sept 29: **Revolution**

Oct 6: **The Constitution**

Oct 13: **The New Nation**

Oct 20: **An Expanding Nation**

Oct 27: **Growing Pains**

Nov 3: **Democrats and Whigs**

Nov 10: **Challenges and Changes**

Nov 17: **A Time of Crisis**

Dec 1: **The Nation Divides**

Dec 8: **The Terrible Conflict**

Dec 15: **Reconstruction**

Jan 5: **Moving Forward**

Part 2

Jan 12: **The Gilded Age**

Jan 19: **The Business of America**

Jan 26: **Beginnings of the Modern Age**

Feb 2: **The Triumph of Progressivism**

Feb 9: **America and the Great War**

Feb 16: **America in the Twenties**

Feb 23: **The New Deal**

Mar 2: **World War II**

Mar 9: **Postwar America**

Mar 16: **The 1950s**

Apr 6: **The Turbulent Sixties**

Apr 13: **The 1970s**

Apr 20: **The Reagan Bush-Era**

Apr 27: **The 1990s**

May 4: **The New Millennium**