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# Live Classes

## American History

Mrs. Brandee Gillham

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Syllabus

2025-2026



## Personal Note from Instructor:

I am so excited that you have chosen to join me as we explore American History! We will look at everything from the early settlements of America, the wars that shaped our country, as well as the many political leaders along the way. All of this course will be taught from a biblical worldview. My prayer is that my students rise up as biblical citizens that know our rich American History and work to make positive impacts in their communities now and for years to come.

## Recommended Grade Level:

9-12

## Prerequisites:

Ability to read and write at 9th-grade level

## Live Lecture Date & Time:

Mondays, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST

*NOTE: The instructor does not require attendance of the live lectures but highly recommends students attend as many of the live lectures as possible to take advantage of live Q&A. Lectures are recorded and posted on the course Canvas page under the associated week and module. If you miss a lecture, please watch the recording. You can also use the recording for review as you prepare for the online exam.*

## Description:

The student will survey American history from the time of the Native Americans and first European explorers through the administration of Barack Obama. The course discusses actions and developments on the national level, especially involving the Federal government, as well as issues and events in American culture. A special emphasis is placed on the role of slavery and subsequent racial issues in American

history. The student will read a significant number of original documents and speeches while studying the narrative of lessons. This material is presented from a Biblical worldview. Students will develop critical thinking skills as they relate to cause-and-effect, bias, and perspective.

## Required Class Materials:

- Texts
  - Exploring America Part 1: Columbus through Reconstruction (2019) Notgrass, Ray 9781609999988
  - Exploring America Part 2: Late 1800s to the Present (2019) Notgrass, Ray 9781609999995
- Highly preferred recommendation:
  - *American Voices: Original Documents, Speeches, Poems, Stories, and Hymns from American History*, 9781609999971
- The full bundle can be found here: <https://shop.notgrass.com/shop/eacp-exploring-america-curriculum-package-578?category=13#attr=Links to an external site.>
  - I will be providing the excerpts truly needed from *American Voices*, but it has so many great documents in there I truly recommend having the entire bundle.
- Handouts
  - These will be made available by the instructor as needed.

## Recommended Class Materials:

- Highly preferred recommendation:
  - *American Voices: Original Documents, Speeches, Poems, Stories, and Hymns from American History*, 9781609999971

## Course Topics:

1	This is Our Country
2	English Settlement of America
3	English Colonies in the 1700s
4	Revolution
5	The Constitution
6	The New Nation

7	An Expanding Nation
8	Growing Pains
9	Democrats & Whigs
10	Challenges and Changes
11	A Time of Crisis
12	The Nation Divides
13	The Terrible Conflict
14	Reconstruction
15	Moving Forward
16	The Gilded Age
17	The Business of America
18	Beginnings of the Modern Age
19	The Triumph of Progressivism
20	America and the Great War
21	America and the Twenties
22	The New Deal
23	World War II
24	Postwar America
25	The 1950s
26	The Turbulent Sixties
27	The 1970s
28	The Reagan-Bush Era
29	The 1990s

## Assignment Structure

- **Class Attendance/Participation:** Attendance and participation are important for success in this course. Students are expected to arrive to class on time. It is recommended that the student enter the online classroom several minutes before the start of class to ensure any technical difficulties are promptly resolved. Absences will require an excuse note from the parent emailed to the instructor. Participation includes asking and answering questions during class utilizing the 'chat' feature, occasional reading, and discussion boards.
- **Readings:** Each student will be required to read the assigned material (25 – 40 pages per week). The student will answer honestly whether the readings were completed on the weekly Homework/Reading Quiz. Each week's readings/assignments must be completed before the scheduled class.
- **Quizzes and Exams:** Quizzes and exams will be in the form of matching, multiple choice, true/false, and short answer essays. Unit quizzes will be assigned every week. Unit exams will be assigned every 5 – 6 weeks. Both will be administered through Canvas.
- **Assignments:** These will vary from week to week, but should help deepen the students understanding of American History.
- **End-of-the-year project:** Students will be required to produce an end-of-the-year project covering a topic of their choosing using a method they prefer to show me that they have learned said topic. Projects have included 5-6 page research paper, diorama, PPT presentation, newspaper article, media recording, etc. Each student will work independently with the instructor to determine the content and method of end-of-the-year presentation.

## Grading:

- **Numeric Grade Scale:** We grade all assignments, etc. using a numeric system of 0-100. As parents record the numeric grades they can convert those to letter grades using any conversion system they wish to use for their Homeschool.
- Students can continue to turn in assignments past their due date (and time), but a 5% per day deduction is applied for late assignments. Parents have full authority to modify that late grade, but it will not be reflected in the class portal.
- Grade Percentages

Assessment	Percentage of Total Grade
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Class attendance/participation	10%
Homework/Participation Points	20%
Unit Quizzes	20%
Unit Exams	30%
Research Paper/Final Project	20%

- Numeric Grade Availability

Parents and students are responsible for saving/printing the student's numeric grades at the end of the course for their personal records.

### PARENT REMINDERS:

- This class provides assistance to you through lecturing, grading, and other course questions.
- While I will be numerically grading your student's work, periodically check to make sure you are aware of their progress.
- As the parent, you are responsible for truly assigning your students final letter grade(s) using the conversion system of your choosing. What I am doing is merely grading (numerically 0-100) assignments turned in to the class portal ON TIME, but you have full control to handle LATE assignments as you see fit.
- You will proctor your student's Unit Exams.
- All final records/transcripts are **prepared by you** as your student's legal homeschool institution. You are responsible for issuing transcripts and report cards as Apologia is not a school that provides such documentation.
- You need to print your student's numeric grades within 2 weeks of the end of class. After that grades cannot be retrieved and will be removed from the system.

### Due Dates and Late Policy:

- 5% per day deduction is applied for late assignments. Parents have full authority to modify that late grade, but it will not be reflected in the class portal and will have to be manually calculated by the parent.

## Student Conduct:

**Academic Integrity:** The student is always expected to maintain academic integrity. Any kind of cheating (copying homework, plagiarism, cheating on quizzes/exams, etc.) is considered unethical and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism will result in an automatic 0 on the assignment and/or the course and the parent(s) will be notified.

**Classroom Conduct:** Students should always remain respectful toward the instructor and other students. Typing, speaking, multitasking, or other disruptions during lectures will not be tolerated.

- Review all announcements, modules, and pages on a regular basis.
- Make sure to complete all readings **before** each class, attend lectures, participate in discussion boards, read announcements, and complete assignments on time.

## Instructor Availability for Questions:

Please email me at [mrsgillham@apologia.com](mailto:mrsgillham@apologia.com) with any questions.