

## **Course Title**

United States History A

## **Description of Target Group**

This course is designed as the first semester of a two-semester course for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students who plan to attend college, community college, or technical school upon graduation from high school.

## **Purpose**

This course is designed to give an overview of the events that gave rise to a spirit of exploration and expansion into an uncharted unknown. The course will trace the development of the United States into a nation through events such as its colonization period, its independence from England, and into the formation of a national identity. The course will include a study of the Civil War.

## **Standards of Expected Student Achievement**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to successfully demonstrate the following skills:

1. Recognize why movements such as the Renaissance, Crusades, and the Commercial Revolution gave rise to a spirit of exploration.
2. Analyze the main reasons why European explorers and discoverers were eager to sail.
3. Compare and contrast the differences in approach to colonization by the major European nations such as Spain, France, and England.
4. Analyze the events and causes leading to the American Revolution in 1776.
5. Analyze the Declaration of Independence as a revolutionary document delineating a course for independence and understand the impact of its ideals in the American mind.
6. Analyze the Constitution and its framework and understand its historical and practical significance to the United States citizen.
7. Discuss the differences between the concepts of nationalism and sectionalism.
8. Understand the concept of "Manifest Destiny" as a rationale for territorial expansion by the United State and recognize how the concept for formulated.
9. Analyze the causes of the Mexican War by contrasting the points of view of the Mexican government and the United State government.
10. Differentiate between the northern and southern viewpoints regarding the Clay Compromise of 1850.
11. Analyze the causes and the results of the American Civil War.

## **United States History A (continued)**

### **Instructional Materials**

Text and Supplementary Materials

Refer to: Secondary Adopted Texts and Approved Supplementary Books Used in the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District

### **Activities**

Lectures, discussions, group projects, simulations, speakers, research, video-tape, films, filmstrips, and field trips.