

Early American History (Honors)
Course Syllabus

Course Instructor: Mr. Duerring (dduerring@nhvweb.net); 908-713-4199 extension 4476

Supplemental Textbook(s):

Cohen, Elizabeth and David M. Kennedy. *The American Pageant*, 15th ed. (Boston, Massachusetts: Wadsworth, 2013).

Hard copies of this textbook will be available for use or reference within the classroom at the appropriate times.

Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty! An American History*, 6th ed. (New York, W.W. Norton & Company, 2020).

Course Description:

This course includes an in-depth examination of early American history spanning from colonization and settlement to Progressivism and the beginning of the “Modern Era”. Particular emphasis will be placed on the following: the interplay between those principles, values, beliefs and assumptions comprising America’s ethos/character; the formation, growth, and development of America’s political and economic systems and processes over time and space; an examination of the institutions that exist and operate within those systems and processes; varying theories of American history, culture, and society. Heavy emphasis will be placed on key themes, concepts, and issues as well as reading comprehension and literacy. The various topics will be examined through both primary and secondary documents as well as visual representations and illustrations. Our investigations will focus on important events, periods, forces, and figures that relate to political, military, socio-economic, and religious aspects of early American history.

Themes to be covered:

Founding the New Nation
Building the New Nation
Testing the New Nation
Forging an Industrial Society
New Imperialism
Populism and Progressivism

Classroom Policies and Procedures:

Grading Policy: Grades will be determined using a straight point system. The final grade will be the sum of points earned divided by the total possible points and multiplying the quotient by 100 to determine a percentage average. This average will then be plugged into the following grading system:

93-100=A	73-76=C
90-92=A-	70-72=C-
87-89=B+	67-69=D+
83-86=B	64-66=D
80-82=B-	63-Below=F
77-79=C+	

Point values will be determined by the nature of the assignment (e.g. homework, project, paper, quiz, test, etc.).

Homework assignments will vary in terms of point values and will be assessed on the basis of both correction and completion. Score determination will be communicated in advance of a particular assignment. For full completion credit to be awarded, the work must meet my pre-communicated expectations by the assigned due date. For completion-based assignments, any work that is not “completed” will be given partial credit on the basis of quantity and quality. **Only in extreme extenuating circumstances will work be accepted late.** It is the student’s responsibility to collect missing work for completion immediately upon their return from an absence and/or to see the instructor for any missed work in a timely fashion. Students who have been absent from class must also turn in assignments immediately upon their return if it was collected during your absence. Classroom policies regarding **make up work** following absences will be pursuant to the district policy outlined in the parent/student/teacher handbook. Students will be given 2 days for each day of absence to make up work effective upon their return to school if he/she wishes to receive full credit.

The following codes will be used in Aspen:

<input type="checkbox"/> Code	Behavior	Missing?	Color
<input type="checkbox"/> ABS	Calculate as zero	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXC	Exempt from calculations	N	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	Calculate as zero	Y	<input type="checkbox"/>