

**Holy Family Academy**  
*Ad Veritatem Per Fidem Et Rationem*  
Grade 7

**Instructor:** Miss Vandegrift

**Course Title:** American History

**Course Description:** This course will serve as an overview of American history from the first European visitors to the twentieth century. It will also, as much as possible, steep the student into the time and concerns of the events being studied with discussions about the issues facing Americans through the centuries and the reading of important documents that helped to shape our nation. Additionally, this course will pay special note to the role of New Hampshire in the unfolding of American history.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To grasp the general narrative of America's history
2. Employ tools of historians to study and analyze historical events
3. Exercise the skill of thinking critically about the concerns of different ages to better understand the time
4. Learn to gain wisdom from the events of the past so as to become pro-active participators in the formation of the history of our own generation

**Scope and Sequence:**

1. A New World (ca. 5<sup>th</sup> cen.–16<sup>th</sup> cen.)
2. Conquests of the New World (16<sup>th</sup> cen.)
3. Conquistadors of Christ (ca. 16<sup>th</sup> cen.–18<sup>th</sup> cen. Western America)
4. France in the New World (ca. 16<sup>th</sup> cen.–18<sup>th</sup> cen.)
5. England Comes to America (ca. 15<sup>th</sup> cen.–17<sup>th</sup> cen.)
6. The Battle for North America (ca. 17<sup>th</sup> cen.–18<sup>th</sup> cen.)
7. If This Be Treason... (18<sup>th</sup> cen.)
8. The Revolutionary War (18<sup>th</sup> cen.)
9. How We Got Our Constitution (18<sup>th</sup> cen.)
10. The Early Days of a New Nation (ca. 18<sup>th</sup> cen.–19<sup>th</sup> cen.)
11. Catholics in the Early United States (ca. 18<sup>th</sup> cen.–19<sup>th</sup> cen.)
12. The Young Republic Grows (19<sup>th</sup> cen.)
13. In the Days of Old Hickory (19<sup>th</sup> cen.)
14. The Fight for the Far West (19<sup>th</sup> cen.)
15. America between the Wars (19<sup>th</sup> cen.)
16. The Civil War, Part 1 (19<sup>th</sup> cen.)
17. The Civil War, Part 2 (19<sup>th</sup> cen.)
18. The Wild West (19<sup>th</sup> cen.)
19. Land of Steel and Steam (ca. 19<sup>th</sup> cen.–20<sup>th</sup> cen.)
20. Catholics in America (20<sup>th</sup> cen.)

**Course Texts:**

Christopher Zehnder, *Volume 5 From Sea to Shining Sea: The Story of America*, (Catholic Schools Textbook Project: United States), 2011.

**Course Supplies:**

- Binder
- Loose-leaf Paper
- Pens and Pencils
- Colored Pencils

**Grading:**

- Class Participation: 10%
- Homework: 25%
- Tests: 25%
- Projects/Presentations: 20%
- Exam: 20%

**Class Participation:**

Class participation will be graded according to four tasks that can and should be done each class. 1) Be on time to class, 2) Bring all appropriate materials for class, 3) Have your homework (even if you didn't finish, have it out and that will count), 4) Be fully involved in class, (this includes active listening, readiness to participate in class discussions, and respect towards your teacher and classmates).

**Homework:**

Homework will primarily be comprised of taking notes on the assigned readings. Notes will be collected at the beginning of each class and returned to students in a timely manner. Students will also be asked to present summaries of historical events to the class. Exams will be cumulative, so students should keep all notes, tests, and class materials until the end of the course.

**Tests and Projects:**

Tests will be given at the end of each chapter. Furthermore, students will complete at least one larger project each semester. Projects will be announced at least two weeks in advance of their due date.

**Extra Assistance:**

I am personally committed to the success of every student in this class. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or desire assistance with class or homework. My e-mail is: [avandegrift@holyfamilyacademy.org](mailto:avandegrift@holyfamilyacademy.org).

**The instructor reserves the right to change or modify this course and the syllabus subject to appropriate and timely notice to the students enrolled in this class**