

The Classical Historian

Scope and Sequence

American History

In the Classical Historian course, students learn history in chronological order and historical thinking skills that teach independent thinking and expression, including the Socratic discussion. Pupils acquire historical content and engage classmates and the teacher in discussions based on open-ended questions in history. Using interesting narratives and primary source documents, pupils acquire analytical skills that enable them to understand history. History comes alive with exciting debate! Students learn how to think, listen, evaluate evidence, and form opinions based on facts and logic. At the conclusion of each semester, the teacher administers a final. At least once during the school year students make a formal presentation in front of a larger community.

History Text: *A Patriot's History of the United States of America*, by Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen

Primary Source Documents: Primary Source Documents Online (See Below)

Overview of The Classical Historian Curriculum and Courses

The Classical Historian teaches the student to know, understand, engage with, and gain an appreciation of history. Classical education in history nurtures a young person's natural inclination to seek the truth in all things and trains students to be independent thinkers and lifelong learners. Key to this approach is the Socratic discussion in history. Classical Historian courses are content rich. Students will learn a specific set of facts specific to each historical time period. Students also learn how to analyze and make sense of the past.

The Classical Historian teaches students specifically what it means to be an American citizen, nurturing a love of country and an understanding of America's common cultural history rooted in Western Civilization. Students learn the centuries-long struggle for individual liberty. Key in the development of individual liberty is the Declaration of Independence and the American Constitution as the American Founding Fathers understood them. In studying the different periods of history, students learn key points related to the establishment of a constitutional federated republic.

The Classical Historian is dedicated to promoting virtue, which is defined as behavior showing high moral standards. One of the key methods we use to promote virtue is the Socratic discussion history. Students learn how to form historical judgment in history, express his ideas among their peers or in front of the parent, and then listen to other ideas and respond intelligently. In teaching students how to discuss history, we are promoting the habits of listening, evaluating, treating others with respect, and searching for the truth.

History Content

I. European Colonization of America

- Native Americans

- Spanish and French Colonies in America
- Founding of American Exceptionalism: Jamestown and Plymouth Plantation
- American Exceptionalism Takes Hold in the English Colonies
- Commonalities of Life in the English Colonies
- Southern Colonies
- New England Colonies
- The Middle Colonies
- Early Indian Wars

II. Founding of the U.S.A.

- Early Causes of the American Revolution
- Land Regulation, Taxes, and Conflict
- Moving Toward War
- The Beginning of the American Revolution
- The Declaration of Independence
- Defeat, Surprise, and Survival
- The Articles of Confederation, 1777-1789

III. The Constitution

- The Making of the American Constitution
- Principles of the Constitution
- Individual Rights
- Philosophy of the Declaration of Independence
- John Locke, Charles Montesquieu, Limited Government
- The Enlightenment
- Unalienable rights and the Founders' understanding
- Constitutional Debates

IV. Era of the Founding Fathers, 1787-1825

- Ratification of the Constitution
- The American People
- Father of the Country
- Presidency of John Adams (1797-1801)
- The Supreme Court, Judicial Review, and Capitalism
- Presidency of Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809)
- Presidency of James Madison (1809-1817)
- The Era of Good Feelings
- American Spirit and Industry in the Free North
- Railroads, the Post Office, and the Politicization of News
- The Missouri Compromise

V. The Beginning of Big Government, 1825-1836

- The Election of 1824 and the Presidency of John Quincy Adams
- The Age of Jackson (1828-1835)

VI. Empire of Liberty or Manifest Destiny, 1836-1848

- Change in America: Industrialization, Religion, and Social Change
- Education in Early America through the Civil War
- The Southwest and the War for Texas Independence (1835-1836)
- Presidencies of Van Buren (1837-1841), Harrison (1841), and Tyler (1841-1845)
- Presidency of Polk (1845-1849) and the Mexican-American War (1846-1848)
- The California Gold Rush and the Oregon Trail

VII. Sectionalism

- The South
- The North
- Life in the West
- Immigration

VIII. The Slavery Crisis Becomes Violent, 1848-1860

- Political Instability and the End of Westward Expansion
- The Decade Preceding the Civil War
- Abraham Lincoln

IX. The Civil War

- The Election of 1860
- Secession and the Confederate States of America
- Fort Sumter and the War on Paper
- Bull Run and the Beginning of the War
- Growth of Government
- The Emancipation Proclamation
- Hard War
- Unconditional Surrender Grant and Lincoln's Reelection
- The End of the War and Lincoln's Assassination
- Winners, Losers and Lasting Changes

X. Reconstruction

- Radical Reconstruction
- 13th, 14th, 15th Amendments

- Freedman's Bureau
- Military Occupation of the South
- End of Reconstruction
- KKK, Lynching
- Plessy v. Ferguson

XI. Industrialization

- Rural-to-urban migration
- Immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe
- Working Conditions
- FDA
- Development of Cities
- Urban Political Machines
- Religious Pluralism as a result of large-scale immigration and First Amendment Rights

XII. U.S. as a World Power

- Open-Door Policy
- Spanish-American War
- Panama Revolution and Panama Canal
- Big Stick diplomacy, Dollar Diplomacy, Moral Diplomacy
- World War I
- Progressivism, the Federal Reserve, the Income Tax
- Progressivism, Racism, Eugenics

XIII. The Roaring Twenties

- Harding, Coolidge, Hoover
- Roaring 20s Economy
- Jazz
- Race Relations, ACLU, NAACP, ADL
- 18th Amendment
- 19th Amendment
- Harlem Renaissance
- Growth of Cities

XIV. The Great Depression

- Causes
- Stock Market Crash
- Election of F.D. Roosevelt
- Massive Government Intervention
- The Dust Bowl

- WPA, Social Security, NLRB, farm programs, Tennessee Valley Authority, California Central Valley Project, Bonneville Dam
- American Federation of Labor, United Farm Workers in California, Congress of Industrial Organizations
- Continued Economic Depression Throughout the 1930s

XV. World War II

- Appeasement among European leaders
- Pearl Harbor
- Major Battles: Midway, Normandy, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and the Battle of the Bulge
- Americans at War
- Americans at Home during the War
- Internment of Japanese Americans and Forced Removal of Italian-Americans and German-Americans from the coasts
- The Holocaust
- Technology
- Increased economic opportunity among African-Americans and women
- The Manhattan Project, the atomic bombs

XVI. The Cold War

- The Iron Curtain
- Communist takeover in Eastern Europe and in Asia
- Communist Genocide
- Warsaw Pact, NATO
- The Marshall Plan
- Communist and Socialist Economic Stagnation and Limits of Freedom
- Economic Boom in America
- The United Nations
- Korea, Vietnam
- McCarthyism, Communist infiltration of universities and entertainment,
- The Truman Doctrine, The Berlin Blockade, The Berlin Wall
- The Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis
- Jimmy Carter, Oil Crisis, Invasion of Afghanistan
- The End of the Cold War, Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul II, Gorbachev, Radio Free Europe
- First Iraqi War

XVI. Civil Rights Movement

- African-American service in wars
- End of segregation of military by Truman in 1948

- Dred Scott v. Sandford, Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board of Education
- A. Philip Randolph, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Thurgood Marshall, James Farmer, Rosa Parks Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" and "I Have a Dream" speech.
- Desegregation, Little Rock
- Civil Rights Act 1964, Voting Rights Act 1965, 24th Amendment
- Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton (e.g., with regard to education, civil rights, economic policy, environmental policy).

XVII. Societal Crisis

- Watergate and lack of public trust in institutions
- Nixon resigned
- Rise in Divorce Rate
- Rise in Crime
- Educational Crisis
- Energy Crisis
- Perjury and Impeachment of President Clinton

XVIII. War on Islamic Terrorism

- 9/11 Attacks
- War against Afghanistan
- War against Iraq
- Housing Crisis/Economic Recession
- Osama bin Laden killed
- U.S. Withdraws from Iraq
- Growth of ISIS and Increase of Terror Attacks
- U.S. Wages War against ISIS
- Decrease in Terrorism

XIX. Presidents Obama and Trump

- Affordable Care Act
- Extended Economic Recession
- Scandals: IRS, Fast and Furious, Hezbollah Drug Running, Secretary of State private email server, Benghazi, Hacking, Veteran's Affairs, Spying on Journalist, Spygate
- 2016 Upset Election
- Economic Resurgence
- ISIS Territory Retaken
- Lowest Unemployment in 50 Years
- Mueller Probe

Sequence of Lessons

Week One: Western Civilization, Columbus and Colonization
Week Two: Jamestown and Plymouth Plantation
Week Three: Causes of the American Revolution
Week Four: The American Revolution—George Washington
Week Five: The Declaration of Independence
Week Six: The US Constitution
Week Seven: Washington’s Inaugural Address and Farewell Address
Week Eight: Challenges of a Young Nation
Week Nine: The Beginning of Big Government
Week Ten: The War for Texas Independence
Week Eleven: Westward Movement
Week Twelve: Antebellum North and South
Week Thirteen: Causes of the Civil War
Week Fourteen: The Civil War
Week Fifteen: Reconstruction
Week Sixteen: Immigration, 1865 to 1920
Week Seventeen: The Wild West
Week Eighteen: Progressivism, Part One
Week Nineteen: Building Greatly
Week Twenty: Progressivism, Part Two
Week Twenty-One: The Roaring Twenties
Week Twenty-Two: The New Deal
Week Twenty-Three: World War II in the Pacific
Week Twenty-Four
Week Twenty-Five: The Cold War in the United States
Week Twenty-Six: An Atomic World
Week Twenty-Seven: The Civil Rights Movement
Week Twenty-Eight: The 60s
Week Twenty-Nine: From Watergate to Carter
Week Thirty: Reagan, Bush, and Clinton
Week Thirty-One: The War of Terror, Obama, and Trump
Week Thirty-Two: Final Class

Primary Sources

1. The Diary of Christopher Columbus

<http://www.americanjourneys.org/pdf/AJ-062.pdf>

2. The Mayflower Compact

<http://mayflowerhistory.com/primary-sources-and-books>

3. Common Sense, Thomas Paine, 1776

<http://www.ushistory.org/paine/commonsense/>

4. Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/>

5. Biography on George Washington

<https://www.classicalhistorian.com/johns-blog/washingtons-birthday>

6. The Declaration of Independence

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/document/>

<https://www.classicalhistorian.com/johns-blog/july-4th-1776-independence-day>

7. United States Constitution

<http://constitutionus.com/>

8. George Washington's First Inaugural Address

https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/american_originals/inaugtxt.html

9. George Washington's Farewell Address

<https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=15&page=transcript>

10. Harriet Tubman's face will replace Andrew Jackson's on the \$20 bill:

<https://www.classicalhistorian.com/johns-blog/harriet-tubman-and-the-20-bill>

11. Treaty of Velasco

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaties_of_Velasco

12. The Monroe Doctrine

<https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=23>

13. John C. Calhoun's Address on States' Rights and Nullification

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/South_Carolina_Exposition_and_Protest

14. Emancipation Proclamation

<https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured-documents/emancipation-proclamation/transcript.html>

15. Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments

<http://ecssba.rutgers.edu/docs/seneca.html>

16. Excerpt from "What Social Classes Owe to Each Other," by William Graham Sumner, 1883

<https://mises.org/library/what-social-classes-owe-each-other-0>

17. Excerpts from “Plessy v. Ferguson, 1896.”

<https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=52>

18. Eugene Debs’ Presidential Nomination Acceptance Speech

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5725/>

19. Booker T. Washington’s Atlanta Compromise Speech, 1895

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/39/>

20. Woodrow Wilson’s Address for Declaration of War, 1917

<https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=61#>

21. William E. Borah’s Speech on the League of Nations, 1919,

<https://www.historycentral.com/documents/Borah.html>

22. Susan B. Anthony and Abortion

<https://www.feministsforlife.org/the-truth-about-susan-b-anthony/>

23. Franklin D. Roosevelt, On Social Security, 1935

<https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/social-security/social-security-an-introduction/>

24. Herbert Hoover, Against the Proposed New Deal, 1932

<http://www.columbia.edu/~gju10/hoover.newdeal.html>

25. “Date Which Will Live in Infamy” Speech, 1941

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5166/>

26. Yalta Agreement

<https://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h2066.html>

27. Winston Churchill’s Iron Curtain Speech

<https://winstonchurchill.org/resources/speeches/1946-1963-elder-statesman/the-sinews-of-peace/>

28. *Brown v. Board of Education*:

<https://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-supreme-court/347/483.html>

29. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s *I have a Dream Speech*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnklfYs>

29. John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural Address, 1961:

<https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/historic-speeches/inaugural-address>

30. Gulf of Tonkin Resolution:

<https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=98&page=transcript>

31. Nixon's Second Watergate Speech

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Nixon%27s+second+watergate+speech

32. *Roe v Wade*, 1973

<https://www.loc.gov/item/usrep410113/>

33. Ronald Reagan's "Our Noble Vision" Speech, 1984

Text: <http://www.biblicalphatriot.net/HistoricSpeeches/cpac8.htm>

Video of Various Other Speeches: <https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/sspeeches/major-speeches-1964-1989>

33. Bill Clinton's Denial of Relations with Monica Lewinsky

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGbdni7QNs>

34. 9/11 attacks

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxRM_LZaVEQ

34. Barack Obama's "A New Beginning" Speech, 2009

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/issues/foreign-policy/presidents-speech-cairo-a-new-beginning>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQSyqnrqQLg>

Historical Thinking Skills

(Writing Skills are Included if the Student Enrolls in the Writing Portion of the Class)

- Distinguishing between fact or opinion
- Making judgment based on evidence
- Using various forms of supporting evidence to form a logical historical perspective
- Using primary and secondary sources to understand the past
- Using quotes to understand history
- Paraphrasing primary source documents
- Researching various sources to form a well-rounded opinion
- Discussing using the Socratic approach to foster listening and speaking skills
- Making a counterargument to show understanding of various viewpoints
- Understanding cause and effect
- Understanding how to compare and contrast events and historical figures
- Understanding bias in the writing of history
- Using evidence and not emotion to form judgement

- Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
- Determine the central ideas of primary and secondary sources.
- Analyze a series of events in a text.
- Compare point of view of two or more authors about a historical event.
- Evaluate an author's claims and evidence.
- Compare and contrast treatment of the same topic in primary and secondary sources.
- Write an argument focused on discipline-specific content.
- Write narratives of historical events.
- Use technology to produce, publish and update writing products.
- Conduct research projects to answer a question or solve a problem.
- Acquire information by listening, observing, using community resources, and reading various forms of literature and primary and secondary source materials.
- Locate, select, and organize information from written sources, such as books, periodicals, government documents, encyclopedias, and bibliographies.
- Retrieve and analyze information by using computers, microfilm, and other electronic media.
- Read and interpret maps, globes, models, diagrams, graphs, charts, tables, pictures, and political cartoons.
- Understand the specialized language used in historical research and social science disciplines.
- Organize and express ideas clearly in writing and in speaking.