



Lisa Hawkins, highly experienced online college and high school history instructor; MA History, Temple University

American History:

Instructor: Lisa Hawkins lisa@questcourses.com

Course Length: 32 weeks

Recommended for: 9-12 grade

Cost: \$575

Test Readiness: The course is aligned with skills and content covered in a pre-AP US History Course, the SAT US History Subject Test, and the CLEP US History Exams. Students do not, however, need to be preparing for a standardized test to take this class.

Prerequisites: None. Application not necessary for high school students.

Required Text: This course offers families two alternatives within the structure of the single class. Alternative A is a textbook-based choice (recommended particularly, but not exclusively, for students preparing for exams) and Alternative B is more of a literature-based choice. More information is available on my website, but if you are considering Alternative A, the required text is Paul Boyer, et. al, [The Enduring Vision](#). Any publication year is acceptable. AVOID the 'concise' edition. You can get either the combined edition or separate volumes 1 and 2. You can get versions listed as 'Cengage Advantage Books' or not. You can get versions listed as 'Dolphin' editions. I explain the differences and similarities among all of these on my website, www.questcourses.com. This text is widely available used and cheap on websites like www.amazon.com and www.ebay.com.

For families that choose Alternative B, students will work through uploaded packets of textbook-like material as well as a series of interesting, relevant history books or excellent documentaries. All or almost all of these works should be available through interlibrary loans or for purchase at low cost online. More information about this can be found on my website.

Live Sessions: Weekly class meetings will be conducted on **Tuesdays, 1PM to 2PM EST** almost every week the course is in session for discussion and reviewing of material. When we do not have a live class scheduled, students and instructor will engage in on-going, directed conversations via threaded discussions in the course website. All live sessions will be recorded and available for students to playback at their convenience.

Description: This course will trace the social, economic, political, cultural, and intellectual development of American society from its roots through recent times. *The set up for American History is unusual in that it offers two very different options for families, depending on their needs. One option will cater to families who prefer a more traditional, text-based course to help students prepare for standardized exams, and the other option will cater to families who prefer a more 'literature-based' approach to American History.* More information can be found on my website. Regardless of the option chosen, all students will be mastering historical content and learning to question, think, and argue like historians. Students will engage in a variety of learning methods, some of which will be common to students signing up for either option, and others will be custom-made for their particular needs. Dozens of additional, optional practice quizzes will be uploaded for any student who wishes to use them for learning purposes and/or test-preparation purposes. My choices for assignments are well-considered and my classes are very lively. I do everything I can to overcome the limitations of the 'virtual divide.'

This course will be run on the learning platform called Canvas. For families who want to get a better sense of what the online course environment will look like, I can set up short-term access to one of my fully-developed Canvas courses. Simply email me at lisa@questcourses.com with your request or questions. In addition, families can visit my website, www.questcourses.com, for more information about me, my educational philosophy, and this course in particular.

Time Commitment: The qualified student will spend 5-7 hours per week on this class. This includes time for reading the assigned texts, completing weekly homework, and participating in weekly class sessions (via live session or archived recording).

About the Instructor: Lisa Hawkins was born and raised in New York, although she also lived for some time in Miami, Puerto Rico, and on a commune in San Diego. She went to Swarthmore College in the Philadelphia area, where she thought she was going to be research biology major. After almost setting fire to her chemistry lab and mistaking a fake plastic owl for a real one, Lisa realized that a career in lab science was not for her, and probably dangerous for everyone else. Grudgingly, she took a history course her junior year and was immediately hooked for life. She went on to Temple University to earn her Masters in History and Widener University to do graduate work in Education and Literature. In 1993, she married her college sweetheart, and together they have 4 children. Lisa has been an adjunct college professor since 1998, creating courses and teaching in history departments for four universities both live and online. In 2012, she received an "Outstanding Adjunct Faculty" award by one of her universities. Lisa had also been a high school literature and history teacher at an inner-city classically-based academy. When she's not teaching, homeschooling, or reading nerdy history books, she will be watching soccer games, listening to Van Morrison, or enjoying a good movie. Well, her husband questions whether *all* the movies she enjoys are good, since she continues to find *Napoleon Dynamite* funny after several viewings, but that's another story.

A couple of recommendations from former students:

I had Mrs. Hawkins for an online AP US History class. I hoped to learn a lot about the history of America, and Mrs. Hawkins did not disappoint. I felt completely confident when I went to take the AP exam, thanks to her instruction. The class was a lot of work, more than I ever thought that I could do. I gained new confidence with each assignment I completed and, by the end, the assignments that were so daunting in the beginning became effortless. While I could tell that others taking the AP test around me were frightened by the essay section, I actually looked forward to it. Mrs. Hawkins assignments, and excellent feedback, allowed me to be unperturbed by a task that most students equated with torture. Mrs. Hawkins didn't just prepare her students for the AP test; she also refined student's skills in areas other than history. I could feel that my writing improved over the duration of the course, and I could complete assignments from other classes much more easily and successfully. Mrs. Hawkins is very knowledgeable about history, and can effectively teach the material to students in a way that builds their skills, knowledge, and confidence. In my opinion, that is what makes a great teacher. I highly recommend both Mrs. Hawkins and her AP US History course.

- Spencer J.

Hi Professor Hawkins,

I wanted to take a moment and let you know that the experience I have had in week 1 of this class is surprisingly refreshing. I absolutely love your style of how learning should be. I get so frustrated listening to all the cookie-cutter monotonous audio lecture files that could have easily been recreated with a computer generated voice. There's no passion or conviction in those lectures, and in the end I forget them as soon as I hear them. When I listen to your custom lecture audio files, I can hear how much you love it. It makes me want to know what you are talking about. For a moment, I almost thought I was actually in a classroom with you in front of me. You are only the second Professor that I have been fortunate enough to come across in the past 2 years that honestly love what your class is about, and has taken the time to create a learning experience that will most likely enrich your students, not just for the class, but for a lifetime.

So, for what I have experienced so far in Week 1, and what I am about to experience in the following 10 weeks, I thank you. I really do. And I hope I am fortunate enough to have you as a Professor in my future online classes.

Best regards,
Cliffton C

World History/Western Civilization I: Ancient to Early Modern

Instructor: Lisa Hawkins lisa@questcourses.com

Course Length: 32 weeks

Recommended for: 9-12 grade

Cost: \$575

Test Readiness: The course is aligned with skills and content covered in a pre- AP World History, the SAT Subject Test in World History or the CLEP Western Civilization I test. Students do not need, however, need to be preparing for a standardized test to take this class.

Prerequisites: None. Application not necessary for high school students.

Required Text: Jackson Spielvogel: Western Civilization, volume 1 [Note: any edition acceptable, including the 'brief' edition. You can also choose the complete text, volumes 1 and 2 combined, if you wish. Avoid volume A, B, or C, since those don't cover the right time periods. Used, cheap copies are widely available on www.amazon.com, www.ebay.com, or similar websites. I describe the difference between 'brief' and regular versions on my website and provide samples of each, to help you choose which one you might prefer. I also explain why I chose this particular text on my website, www.questcourses.com.

Live Sessions: Weekly class meetings will be conducted on **Tuesdays 6PM to 7PM, EST** almost every week the course is in session for discussion and reviewing of material. When we do not have a live class scheduled, students and instructor will engage in on-going, directed conversations via threaded discussions in the course website. All live sessions will be recorded and available for students to playback at their convenience.

Description: *This course will trace the social, economic, and political development of world civilizations and the growth of important ideas from ancient times, beginning with Mesopotamia and Egypt, progressing through Greece and Rome, and then focusing on European developments from the end of the Roman Empire through the mid seventeenth century. It addresses the needs of students who are looking for either a World History course or a Western Civilization course.* Not only will students be mastering much historical content, they will also be learning how to ask questions, seek answers, and make arguments like historians. Students will engage in a variety of learning methods, including textbook study, primary document exploration, creative writing, group discussions, and other projects. Dozens of additional, optional practice quizzes will be uploaded for students who want extra preparation towards a standardized exam. My choices for assignments are well-considered and my classes are very lively. I do everything I can to overcome the limitations of the 'virtual divide.'

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