



Lisa Hawkins, highly experienced online college and high school history instructor; MA History, Temple University. The picture you see is not actually Mrs. Hawkins, but one of her favorite people in the past, Harriet Tubman.

American History: Live Course Meetings: Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 Eastern Standard Time

Instructor: Lisa Hawkins lisa@questcourses.com

Course Length: 32 weeks

Recommended for: 9-12 grade (Parents of interested 8th graders should contact me before registering.)

Cost: \$595

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 Texts: 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. I explain the textbook edition variations 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, 10:30-11:30 EST** almost every week the course is in session for discussion and instruction. When we do not have a live class scheduled, students will be watching a teacher-created presentation or directed to do some other related activity. All live sessions will be recorded and available for students to playback at their convenience. Although attendance in the live sessions is not necessary, it is *highly* recommended. Not only do the students gain a lot from them, but we also have a lot of fun.

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. Canvas is a user-friendly, powerful platform where parents can be linked to their students and access student material, see grades, and contact the instructor at any time. 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 5-8 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 six 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.

Some recommendations from former students (more available at my website):

If you are looking for an educational yet fun class, this is the place to be! Mrs. Hawkins interacts with her students making class both productive and entertaining. It is evident that Mrs. Hawkins has mastered the art of presenting history in an intelligent, exciting manner, making her an extremely effective teacher. There is not a better history teacher on the market :)
-Daniel K. (Aim Academy student)

Mrs. Hawkins is a wonderful teacher with an infectious enthusiasm for the subject. I did not enjoy history prior to taking this class and I look forward to taking American History with her. The supplemental information she provides for the world history class is interesting, funny and not tedious to plow through. She varies the structure of the class so that it is not just lecture only. Although the class presents a lot of material, Mrs. Hawkins covers the content thoroughly. She makes herself readily available if I or my mom has any questions. I am always aware of how I am performing in this class as my grades are available on the assignment portion of the system. I would highly recommend her classes.
-Angel B. (Aim Academy student)

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. (former AP student)

Hi Professor Hawkins,

I wanted to take a moment and let you know that the experience I have had in 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, 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,

Cliffon C (former college-level student)