COURSE DESCRIPTION
Sophia's US History I course will build student knowledge of key events and figures in the history of the United States from American prehistory through the era of reconstruction. This course emphasizes critical thinking skills and consideration of multiple perspectives through the analysis of primary sources. Additionally, students will learn how to think like a historian by utilizing primary and secondary sources to better understand historical events and applying a historian’s lens to real world situations.

Course Effective Dates:  May 2017 – Present

Prerequisite(s):  Lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree course – no prerequisites

Length of course:  This is a self-paced course. Students have 60 days with an additional 30-day extension (if needed) to complete the course.

ACE CREDIT® Recommendation:  In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category, 3 semester hours in US history or American history (5/17).

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:
1. Interpret or analyze a primary source to draw conclusions about a historical event
2. Apply different historical lenses in order to critically analyze historical events through a variety of perspectives
3. Understand the events, people, and motivations involved in the settling of the Americas
4. Recognize the events and factors that lead up to the American Revolution
5. Analyze the political, social and economic climate during and after the drafting of the constitution
6. Evaluate the events leading up to the Civil War and understand the key players, battles, and rationales
7. Analyze how historians have interpreted the era of reconstruction and the causes for the collapse of reconstruction
8. Trace the evolution of slavery and examine the experience of slaves from the age of exploration through the era of reconstruction

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

- Analyzing Primary Sources
- The First Settlers
- The Columbian Exchange
- Spanish, French, Dutch, and English Contact
- Native American Interactions with Europeans
- Settling the Southern, Northern, and Middle Colonies

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● The Challenges to the English Empire
● Growth of the colonies
● The French and Indian War
● American Slavery from an African Perspective
● Path to the American Revolution
● The American War for Independence, 1775-1783
● Creating a Republic
● The War of 1812
● Market Revolution and Economic Changes
● The Sectional Crisis and the "Corrupt Bargain" of 1824
● The Election of 1828 and the Rise of Andrew Jackson
● The Bank War and the Rise of the Second Party System
● Slavery in the United States in the 19th Century
● Women's Activism in the Early 19th Century
● Manifest Destiny and The Dilemma of the West
● The Compromise of 1850
● A House Divided: Crises of the 1850’s
● The Election of 1860 and Secession
● The Civil War
● Reconstructing the South

GRADING
This is a pass/fail course. Students are required to complete all 12 formative and 4 summative assessments with an overall course average of 70% or better.