

**USU 1300: U.S. Institutions, Section 004  
Fall 2008**

**1:30-2:20 M/W/F Old Main 115**

**Course Instructor:**

**Professor Lawrence Culver, Department of History**

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**Office Hours: M/W/F 3:00-4:00; or by appointment.**

**Graduate Assistant:**

**Brandon Rains -- brandon.rains@aggiemail.usu.edu**

**Undergraduate Teaching Fellow:**

**Jeff Ricks -- jeff.ricks@aggiemail.usu.edu**

**Supplemental Instructor:**

**Angela Chavez -- angela.chavez@aggiemail.usu.edu**

**S.I. Schedule:**

**Monday 6:30-7:20 in Old Main 121**

**Thursday 4:30-5:20 in ENGR 101**

**Textbook: James A. Henretta, David Brody, and Lynn Dumenil, *America: A Concise History*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Boston: Bedford St. Martin's, 2006. (Also available on reserve at Media Collections in Merrill-Cazier Library.)**

This course provides a broad overview of the history of the United States from the initial contact of Native Americans and Europeans in 1492 to the present, with special emphasis given to major themes in American history and major institutions in American society. It fulfills the University Studies Breadth American Institutions requirement. Some of the themes we will focus on in this class include:

- The diverse origins of American culture and society
- The evolving role of the federal government
- The ways technology and economic change have transformed American society
- America's changing relationship with the world

**Attendance:**

You are expected to attend class, and to refrain from behavior others will find distracting, such as talking or answering your cell phone during lectures. The exams in this class will be based primarily on lectures, so failure to attend class will make it difficult to succeed in the course. You must be in attendance for exams and quizzes. Only serious emergencies or university-related conflicts are acceptable excuses for missing an exam. If an emergency occurs, contact me as soon as possible. If you are aware of a prior conflict, such as an athletic or academic event you will be participating in, let me know as soon as possible. In the case of an emergency or unavoidable absence, you will be given a make-up exam different from the one given to the rest of the class.

**Reading:**

The textbook is intended to serve as a supplement to class lectures. If you get lost, confused, or want to know more about a particular issue, the textbook is a resource for you to use. The lecture outline below

lists the chapter or chapters that discuss each lecture's topics. You can also use the Glossary (pages G-1 to G-18) and Index (pages I-1 to I-110) to find specific subjects in the text.

You will also read additional primary source readings, all of which are listed on the course website. You can access the website at this address: <http://www.usu.edu/history/faculty/culver/classesculver.htm> These documents are NOT on Blackboard. These primary sources will allow you to analyze documents as historians do, and will serve as the basis of three quizzes. These primary sources will be available online, as handouts, or in the textbook.

**Grading:**

Exam 1:	25%
Exam 2:	25%
Final Exam:	25%
Primary Source Quizzes (3):	25%

Exams and quizzes will be graded and returned to you as promptly as possible. There may also be opportunities to earn extra credit, and those will be discussed in class.

**University Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism:**

The USU Honor Code prohibits academic dishonesty. Cheating on an exam or other academic dishonesty will result in an immediate F, and will be reported to the Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Other penalties may also be imposed at the Dean's discretion. These include probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, referral to psychological counseling, and other appropriate disciplinary actions.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1**

August 25	Introduction to USU 1300: U.S. Institutions
August 27	The World in 1492 Chapter 1
August 29	Contact, Conquest, and the "Columbian Exchange" Chapter 1

**Week 2**

September 1	<b>Labor Day – No Class</b>
September 3	Spain, France, Britain, and the Imperial Contest for North America Chapter 2
September 5	English America: Jamestown and Plymouth Chapter 2

**Week 3**

September 8	The Atlantic Colonies Chapters 2 and 3
September 10	Revolution Chapters 4, 5, and 6
September 12	From Independence to the Constitution Chapter 7

**Week 4**

September 15	From Washington to Jefferson and the Emergence of the New Nation Chapters 7, 8, and 9
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September 17 **Primary Documents Quiz 1**  
**Exam Review**

September 19 **EXAM 1**

### **Week 5**

September 22 Andrew Jackson, a White Man's Democracy, and Indian Removal  
Chapter 11

September 24 New Industries and New Immigrants  
Chapter 10

September 26 The New Middle Class  
Chapter 10

### **Week 6**

September 29 Slavery and the Plantation System  
Chapter 9

October 1 Manifest Destiny, the U.S.-Mexican War and Gold Rush  
Chapters 13 and 16

October 3 Compromise, Abolition, and the Road to War  
Chapters 12 and 13

### **Week 7**

October 6 The Civil War  
Chapter 14

October 8 The South Reconstructed and the South Redeemed  
Chapters 15 and 19

October 10 Westward Expansion and the Transcontinental Railroad  
Chapter 16

### **Week 8**

October 13 Robber Barons, Captains of Industry, and the Gilded Age  
Chapters 17 and 19

October 15 Laborers, from White Collar to Wage Slaves  
Chapter 17

October 16 **Holiday Make-Up Day (Follow Friday Schedule)**  
Discontent in Industrial and Rural America: Unions and Populism  
Chapter 19

October 17 **Fall Break – No Class**

### **Week 9**

October 20 Urban America: Tenements and Technological Transformation  
Chapter 18

October 22 The "End of the Trail"?: Wounded Knee, Reservations, and Allotment  
Chapter 16

October 24 **Primary Documents Quiz 2**  
Video

### **Week 10**

October 27 The End of the Frontier and the Beginning of Empire  
Chapter 21

October 29 **Exam Review**  
**EXAM 2**

October 31 The Age of Management: The Progressives  
Chapter 20

**Week 11**

November 3 Wilson and World War I  
Chapter 22

November 5 Women's Rights and Suffrage  
Chapters 12, 20, and 22

November 7 The Roaring 1920s  
Chapter 23

**Week 12**

November 10 Depression and Dust Bowl  
Chapter 24

November 12 F.D.R. and the New Deal  
Chapter 25

November 14 World War II: The Homefront  
Chapter 26

**Week 13**

November 17 World War II Abroad: America the Superpower  
Chapter 26

November 19 The 1950s: Consumerism and the Cold War  
Chapters 27 and 28

November 21 Civil Rights  
Chapter 28

**Week 14**

November 24 America in Turmoil: Vietnam and Watergate  
Chapters 29 and 30

November 26 **Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class**

November 28 **Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class**

**Week 15**

December 1 The New Conservatism and the Reagan Revolution  
Chapters 30 and 31

December 3 America and the World at the Millennium: Immigration and Globalization  
Chapter 31

December 5 **Primary Documents Quiz 3**  
**Exam Review**  
**(Last Day of Class)**

**FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 10, 11:30-1:20 in Old Main 115**

Note that this syllabus may be revised or altered by the instructor if necessary. An updated version will be available on the instructor's homepage at the USU History Department website:

**<http://www.usu.edu/history/faculty/culver/classesculver.htm>**