

USU 1300: U.S. Institutions, Section 002
Spring 2007

11:30-12:20 M/W/F BNR 102

Professor Lawrence Culver, Department of History

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Office Hours: M/W/F 10:30-11:20; or by appointment.

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Andrea Carter

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Supplemental Instruction Schedule:

3:30 Tuesdays, Old Main 326

6:30 Wednesdays, Old Main 121

6:30 Thursdays, Engineering 302

Optional Text: Mary Beth Norton, et. al., *A People and a Nation: A History of the United States*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, Dolphin Complete Edition, 2006. (Also available on reserve at 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. As the exams in this class will be based primarily on lectures, 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

are a participant 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 will 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. I will also assign additional primary source readings. These 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, on library reserve, or in the textbook.

Grading:

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

Exams will be graded and returned to you as promptly as possible. 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

January 8 Introduction to USU 1300: U.S. Institutions
January 10 The World in 1492
January 12 Contact, Conquest, and the "Columbian Exchange"

Week 2

January 15 **No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
January 17 Spain, France, Britain, and the Imperial Contest for North America
January 19 English America: Jamestown and Plymouth

Week 3

January 22 The Atlantic Colonies
January 24 Revolution
January 26 From Independence to the Constitution

Week 4

January 29 From Washington to Jefferson and the Emergence of the New Nation
January 31 **Exam Review**
Primary Documents Quiz 1
February 2 **EXAM 1**

Week 5

- February 5 Andrew Jackson, a White Man's Democracy, and Indian Removal
February 7 New Industries and New Immigrants
February 9 The New Middle Class

Week 6

- February 12 Religious Revival: Mormons, Shakers, and More
February 14 Slavery and the Plantation System
February 16 Manifest Destiny, the U.S.-Mexican War and Gold Rush

Week 7

- February 19 **President's Day – No Class**
February 20 Holiday Make-Up Day
February 21 Compromise, Abolition, and the Road to War
February 23 The Civil War

Week 8

- February 26 The South Reconstructed and the South Redeemed
February 28 Video
March 2 Video

Week 9

- March 5 Westward Expansion and the Transcontinental Railroad
March 7 Robber Barons, Captains of Industry, and the Gilded Age
March 9 Laborers, from White Collar to Wage Slaves

- March 12 **No Classes – Spring Break**
March 14 **No Classes – Spring Break**
March 16 **No Classes – Spring Break**

Week 10

- March 19 Rural America: Populism, the Grange, and Discontent on the Plains
March 21 Urban America: Tenements and Technological Transformation
March 23 The "End of the Trail"?: Wounded Knee, Reservations, and Allotment

Week 11

- March 26 The End of the Frontier and the Beginning of Empire
Primary Documents Quiz 2
March 28 **EXAM 2**
March 30 The Age of Management: The Progressives

Week 12

- April 2 Wilson and World War I
April 4 Women's Rights and Suffrage
April 6 The Roaring 1920s

Week 13

April 9 Depression and Dust Bowl
April 11 F.D.R. and the New Deal
April 13 World War II: The Homefront

Week 14

April 16 World War II Abroad: America the Superpower
April 18 The 1950s: Consumerism and the Cold War
April 20 Civil Rights

Week 15

April 23 America in Turmoil: Vietnam and Watergate
April 25 The New Conservatism and the Reagan Revolution
April 27 America and the World at the Millennium: Immigration and Globalization
Primary Documents Quiz 3
(Last Day of Class)

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 2, 9:30-11:20 in BNR 102

Note that this syllabus may be revised or altered by the instructor if necessary. If so, an updated version will be available at the instructor's homepage at the History Department website:

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