

**USU 1300: U.S. Institutions, Section 002  
Spring 2008**

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

**Course Instructor:**

**Professor Lawrence Culver, Department of History**

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**Office Hours: M/W/F 10:00-11:00; or by appointment.**

**Graduate Assistants:**

**Kelly Jones                      Email: [kelly.jones@aggiemail.usu.edu](mailto:kelly.jones@aggiemail.usu.edu)**

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**Supplemental Instructor:**

**Sarah Bredthauer        Email: [usu1300si@gmail.com](mailto:usu1300si@gmail.com)**

**Supplemental Instruction Schedule:**

**Mondays, 5:30-6:20 ENGR 106**

**Wednesdays, 5:30-6:20 ENGR 201**

**Thursdays, 6:30-7:20 MAIN 121**

**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. 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, 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 a few 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**

January 7	Introduction to USU 1300: U.S. Institutions
January 9	The World in 1492 Chapter 1
January 11	Contact, Conquest, and the "Columbian Exchange" Chapter 1

**Week 2**

January 14	Spain, France, Britain, and the Imperial Contest for North America Chapter 2
January 16	English America: Jamestown and Plymouth Chapter 2
January 18	The Atlantic Colonies Chapters 2 and 3

**Week 3**

January 21	<b>No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>
January 23	Revolution Chapters 4, 5, and 6
January 25	From Independence to the Constitution Chapter 7

**Week 4**

January 28	From Washington to Jefferson and the Emergence of the New Nation Chapters 7, 8, and 9
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January 30	<b>Primary Documents Quiz 1</b>
	<b>Exam Review</b>
February 1	<b>EXAM 1</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	
February 4	Andrew Jackson, a White Man's Democracy, and Indian Removal Chapter 11
February 6	New Industries and New Immigrants Chapter 10
February 8	The New Middle Class Chapter 10
<b>Week 6</b>	
February 11	Religious Revival: Mormons, Shakers, and More Chapter 12
February 13	Slavery and the Plantation System Chapter 9
February 15	Manifest Destiny, the U.S.-Mexican War and Gold Rush Chapters 13 and 16
<b>Week 7</b>	
February 18	<b>President's Day – No Class</b>
February 19	Holiday Make-Up Day
February 20	Compromise, Abolition, and the Road to War Chapters 12 and 13
February 22	The Civil War Chapter 14
<b>Week 8</b>	
February 25	The South Reconstructed and the South Redeemed Chapters 15 and 19
February 27	Westward Expansion and the Transcontinental Railroad Chapter 16
February 29	Robber Barons, Captains of Industry, and the Gilded Age Chapters 17 and 19
<b>Week 9</b>	
March 3	Laborers, from White Collar to Wage Slaves Chapter 17
March 5	Rural America: Populism, the Grange, and Discontent on the Plains Chapter 19
March 7	Urban America: Tenements and Technological Transformation Chapter 18
<b>Week 10</b>	
March 10	<b>No Classes – Spring Break</b>
March 12	<b>No Classes – Spring Break</b>
March 14	<b>No Classes – Spring Break</b>
<b>Week 11</b>	
March 17	The "End of the Trail"?: Wounded Knee, Reservations, and Allotment Chapter 16

March 19 The End of the Frontier and the Beginning of Empire  
Chapter 21

March 21 **Primary Documents Quiz 2**  
**Exam Review**

**Week 12**

March 24 **EXAM 2**

March 26 The Age of Management: The Progressives  
Chapter 20

March 28 Wilson and World War I  
Chapter 22

**Week 13**

March 31 Women's Rights and Suffrage  
Chapters 12, 20, and 22

April 2 The Roaring 1920s  
Chapter 23

April 4 Depression and Dust Bowl  
Chapter 24

**Week 14**

April 7 F.D.R. and the New Deal  
Chapter 25

April 9 World War II: The Homefront  
Chapter 26

April 11 World War II Abroad: America the Superpower  
Chapter 26

**Week 15**

April 14 The 1950s: Consumerism and the Cold War  
Chapters 27 and 28

April 16 Civil Rights  
Chapter 28

April 18 America in Turmoil: Vietnam and Watergate  
Chapters 29 and 30

**Week 16**

April 21 The New Conservatism and the Reagan Revolution  
Chapters 30 and 31

April 23 America and the World at the Millennium: Immigration and Globalization  
Chapter 31

April 25 **Primary Documents Quiz 3**  
**Exam Review**  
(Last Day of Class)

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

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>**