

Instructor:

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Text: Stephen Oates, *Portrait Of America: Complete Version WSU Custom*
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Objectives: Utah State Code 53B-16-103(b) requires that “A student shall demonstrate a reasonable understanding of the history, principles, form of government, and economic system of the United States prior to receiving a bachelor’s degree or teaching credential.” Successful completion of this course will satisfy this “American Institutions” requirement.

Class Description: An analysis of American civilization that traces social, cultural, economic, and political developments in the United States. May be taken to complete the American Institutions requirement (grade of C or better required).

Participation in the class and class discussions are expected.

Grading Policies: Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Quizzes	40%
Map Exercise	10%
Timeline Exercise	20%
Term Paper	20%
Class Participation	10%

Grades: A: 90 - 100% B: 80 - 89% C: 70 - 79% D: 60 - 69% E: 0 - 59%
(Grades at the high or low ends of these ranges will earn plus and minus grades.)

Quizzes: There will a quiz every day at the beginning of class. Each quiz will be based on the readings that you were given for that day, or will be given on the content of the previous class’s discussions.

Students with Disabilities: Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

Cheating Policy: Cheating and deceit are not accepted at Weber State University. *Cheating on an quiz or assignment, or turning in someone else's work as your own, will result in an E for the class.* You may work together on your assignments and papers, but you must turn in your own work. If you quote from a book, article, or web site, you must properly quote and cite your work. **Avoid even the appearance of cheating or plagiarism.**

Cell Phones, Texting, and Laptops:

Put your cell phones on vibrate. Try to avoid leaving class to take a call, but an occasional emergency is understandable. There will be NO texting in this class. Laptops or other personal digital tools may be used to take notes or look up material relevant to class discussions. No other uses of laptops will be tolerated.

Campus Closure:

In the event of an extended campus closure, please look at your Weber State email in order for instructions on how we will continue the class via email and the online course system.

Map Exercise: Objective: Refresh your geographical knowledge from an historical perspective.

Attached to this syllabus are blank maps of the continental United States and the World. You might want to make copies for practice. Place or draw the following locations on the maps.

Mississippi River	Missouri River	Columbia River	Ohio River
Washington, D.C.	New York City	Chicago	San Francisco
Los Angeles	Salt Lake City	Santa Fe	Great Lakes
Philadelphia	Richmond	Plymouth	Jamestown, Virginia
Great Plains	Rocky Mountains	New Orleans	Appalachian Mountains
St. Augustine	Houston	Seattle	Grand Canyon
Pacific Ocean	Atlantic Ocean	Gulf of Mexico	Japan
Russia	Germany	England	Canada
Mexico	Philippines	Vietnam	China
Cuba	Peal Harbor	Iceland	Australia
Panama Canal	Ireland	Africa	Vinland (Newfoundland)

Grading will be based on three criteria:

- 1) Placing all locations correctly.
- 2) Neatness and presentation.
- 3) Grammatical or mechanical errors.

Timeline Exercise: Objective: Review of events of American history; gain an increased understanding of historical perspective.

Make a timeline of what you see as the 30 most important events in American history from 1492 to 2012. Use an American history textbook or an encyclopedia or the Internet to find your information. For each entry, include a 2-3 sentence justification for your choice. Timeline MUST be typed.

Grading will be based on three criteria:

- 1) Completion of 30 American history events and 2-3 sentence descriptions.
- 2) Neatness and presentation.
- 3) Grammatical or mechanical errors.

Term Paper: Write a 5-7 page paper on your personal family history, relating it to the American history that you have learned in this class. You may turn in an early draft for me to critique, and I will return the critiqued draft one week later. The final draft is due on the final day of class.

Schedule:

Week	Monday
May 9	Class introduction
May 16	Before the United States. Read Oates, Chapters I: 1-6
May 23	Founding the United States. Read Oates, Chapters I: 7-10 and read the Declaration of Independence in the third section of the book
May 30	Creating a Nation. Read Oates, Chapters I: 11-17 and read the Constitution in the third section of the book Map Exercise is due
June 6	The Frontier. Read Oates, Chapters I: 18-22
June 13	The Civil War. Read Oates, Chapters I: 23-30
June 20	The West. Read Oates, Chapters II: 3-10
June 27	Industrial Expansion and Progressivism. Read Oates, Chapters II: 11-16
July 4	Holiday
July 11	World War II. Read Oates, Chapters II: 17-21
July 18	The Cold War. Read Oates, Chapters II: 22, 25-28
July 25	Later 20 th Century. Read Oates, Chapters II: 23-24, Timeline Exercise is due
August 1	America Today. Read Oates, Chapters II: 29-32
August 8	Spare day Term Paper is due NO FINAL EXAM

