

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.

This American Institutions (AI) course meets the following objectives. Upon completing an AI course a student shall demonstrate a reasonable understanding of:

1. The significant political, economic, and social changes in American history.
2. The major principles of American civilization, including the concepts of popular sovereignty, liberty, and equality.
3. The institutions and practices of the government provided for in the United States Constitution.
4. The basic workings and evolution of a market economy in the United States.
5. The diversity of American life and experience.

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.

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.

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.

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.)

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.

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

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

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. If you have no sources for a personal family history, you may write a 5-7 page paper on any topic in American history.

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.

On the US map:

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

On the World map:

Pacific Ocean	Atlantic Ocean	Gulf of Mexico	Japan
Russia	Germany	England	Canada
Mexico	Philippines	Vietnam	China
Cuba	Pearl 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.

Schedule:

Week	Wednesday
May 8	Class introduction
May 15	Before the United States. Read Oates, Chapters I: 1-6
May 22	Founding the United States. Read Oates, Chapters I: 7-10 and read the Declaration of Independence in the third section of the book
May 29	Creating a Nation. Read Oates, Chapters I: 11-17, the Constitution in the third section of the book.
June 5	Constitution. Read the Constitution again in the third section of the book. Map Exercise is due
June 12	The Frontier. Read Oates, Chapters I: 18-22
June 19	The Civil War. Read Oates, Chapters I: 23-30
June 26	The West. Read Oates, Chapters II: 3-10
July 3	Industrial Expansion and Progressivism. Read Oates, Chapters II: 11-16
July 10	World War II. Read Oates, Chapters II: 17-21
July 17	The Cold War. Read Oates, Chapters II: 22, 25-28 Timeline Exercise is due
July 24	Holiday
July 31	Later 20 th Century. Read Oates, Chapters II: 23-24
August 7	America Today. Read Oates, Chapters II: 29-32 Term Paper is due
August 14	NO FINAL EXAM

Syllabus	Course Description: An analysis of American civilization that makes use of primary sources and secondary sources to examine the development of American society from the colonial period to the present. The course will focus on the political, social, and economic history of the United States, with an emphasis on the impact of major events such as the American Revolution, the Civil War, and World War II. The course will also explore the role of African Americans, women, and other marginalized groups in shaping American history.
Week 1: Introduction to American History	Objectives: Students will learn about the basic principles of American government and the importance of the Constitution. They will also learn about the early history of the United States, including the colonial period and the American Revolution.
Week 2: Early American History	Objectives: Students will learn about the early history of the United States, including the colonial period and the American Revolution.
Week 3: The Civil War and Reconstruction	Objectives: Students will learn about the causes and effects of the Civil War, as well as the challenges faced by African Americans during Reconstruction.
Week 4: Industrialization and the Gilded Age	Objectives: Students will learn about the rapid industrialization of the United States during the late 19th century, as well as the social and political changes that occurred during this period.
Week 5: The Progressive Era and World War I	Objectives: Students will learn about the Progressive Era and its impact on American society, as well as the causes and effects of World War I.
Week 6: The Great Depression and the New Deal	Objectives: Students will learn about the Great Depression and the New Deal, as well as the impact of these policies on American society.
Week 7: The Cold War and the Space Race	Objectives: Students will learn about the Cold War and the Space Race, as well as their impact on American society.
Week 8: The Civil Rights Movement and the War on Poverty	Objectives: Students will learn about the Civil Rights Movement and the War on Poverty, as well as their impact on American society.
Week 9: The End of the Cold War and Globalization	Objectives: Students will learn about the end of the Cold War and the rise of globalization, as well as their impact on American society.
Week 10: The Present Day	Objectives: Students will learn about current issues facing the United States, including politics, economics, and social issues.