U.S. History: Development of American Values and Institutions
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COURSE SYLLABUS

I. COURSE PLAN

A. Course Description

This will be a survey course in the development of American institutions beginning with the colonial period and continuing to the present. Emphasis is placed upon social, political, institutional, and cultural values as they have developed and changed over time.

Lectures will be used and are intended to interpret and clarify selected essential features of the growth of the United States and her institutions.

Target areas or topics are picked as major essay questions in order to develop within the student knowledge of and appreciation for the development of American institutions and practices. Culture, social, political and economic aspects will be emphasized.

B. General Objectives

1. Each student should be able to recall specific terms, facts, trends and sequences related to the history of the United States which are emphasized in lecture and class discussion.

2. Each student should develop the necessary skills to evaluate historical information and form personal opinions regarding their own interpretation of history. As new evidence is introduced or discovered the student should be able to re-evaluate earlier interpretations.

3. It is expected that after completing this course, students will develop a better understanding of the United States as it is today, how to critically evaluate more recent sources of information and become decision-makers concerning current issues facing the United States.

II. Topics:

1. Discuss the Development of Georgia as a colony. In the discussion, you should include the influence the environment had on Georgia’s development and the impact this influence had on the American value system in general.

2. Discuss the nature of the American Revolution and the conditions that fostered it.

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3. Discuss the significance of the frontier in American History. In your discussion you must give an example of the landed frontier. Also, discuss the Germ theory, Americanization by mixture, and ethnicity as means of developing an identity in today’s society.

4. Discuss the development of the American two party system.

5. Discuss the principles of realistic idealism v. political idealism. In your discussion, explain the difference between foreign and domestic policies v. the reality of politics. Your essay should discuss the events surrounding Watergate, the concerns of our Founding Fathers about the human condition and political parties.

6. Discuss the development of Standard Oil Company by John D. Rockefeller and show how the philosophy of Social Darwinism was applied to the company’s development.

7. Define and discuss the progressive movement. In your discussion list the problems which the Progressives faced and show what effect Muckraking had on society in helping the Progressives solve these problems.

8. Discuss the Republican domestic program from 1921-1933 and briefly compare it with the decades from the 1870’s to 1901. In your discussion explain how the Republican’s domestic program from 1921-1933 led to the Great Depression.

9. Discuss the intellectual and philosophical foundation of the New Deal. In your discussion show the patterns of the New Deal and give an appraisal of its significance and its permanent contributions.

10. Define and explain the difference between the ideas of welfare capitalism verses a market economy. Briefly compare the differences between FDR’s New Deal, Lyndon Johnson’s “Great Society” and show how these two programs led to the Reagan revolution.