



Syllabus



Syllabus

The course includes a welcome section that be completed the first (this may be as few as two days.) Each of the twelve lessons will be covered one per weel. The lesson will be available the Thursday prior to the Monday it starts to allow for additional preparation if desired.

Lesson 1	Introduction
Lesson 2	Independence and Revolution
Lesson 3	Constitutional Development
Lesson 4	Power of Government
Lesson 5	Religion in America
Lesson 6	American Economic Development and Industrialization
Lesson 7	Market Challenges I
Lesson 8	Market Challenges II
Lesson 9	Inclusion and Exclusion
Lesson 10	Political Parties
Lesson 11	Technology, Communication, and Socialization
Lesson 12	America in the World

Course Description

American Foundations 101

Outcomes

1. Students will learn the basic principles of politics, government, and economics “in the tradition of the founding fathers” upon which the American experience was founded.
2. Students will prepare themselves to become both good citizens and members of the church. They will recognize their responsibility “to be full participants in political, governmental, and community affairs,” to understand that they “are under special obligations to seek out and then uphold those leaders who are wise, good, and honest,” and to follow the First Presidency’s counsel that members of the church “be willing to serve on school boards, city and county councils and commissions, state legislatures, and other high offices of either election or appointment, including involvement in the political party of their choice.” (The First Presidency, 1998)

3. Students will be able to explain how the phrases “inspired Constitution,” “choice land,” and “the law will go forth from Zion,” from LDS Church tradition are related to and inform the basic principles of the American experience.
4. Students will engage the writings of prominent economic, political, and cultural thinkers and evaluate them in terms of the gospel and the insights gleaned from the words of the modern church leaders.
5. Students will develop critical thinking skills as they consider why American social, political, cultural, and economic systems developed, the alternatives to those systems, what the strengths and weaknesses of past and present systems are, and how this information helps them to better formulate and promote future policy.
6. This course will provide students with the tools to become informed, active participants in the American experience and be able to defend the foundational principles against forces that would erode and destroy them.

Description

American Foundations is a course designed to encourage students to explore the major historical, political, economic, and cultural themes in American life coupled with the insights of the restored gospel and the teachings of the living prophets. To ensure a common experience for all students and to encourage student discussions of the themes across campus, the American Foundations committee has developed a common teaching schedule and a list of twelve topics with outcomes to be covered in all sections of the class. Based on the assumptions of the BYU-Idaho learning model, the expectation is that students will prepare for each class by reading background information, considering case studies, or watching videos, and come to class prepared to teach each other what they have learned. The students then should be able to prove their learning experience by applying what they have learned to other events and circumstances in the American experience or to situations they face in their own life.

Required Supplies

There is no assigned text for this course but there will be a significant reading and preparation requirement. The reading material for this course will be provided on-line via I-Learn. You should plan to access I-Learn as early as possible and become familiar with the way the system works. Any questions regarding difficulties with the on-line system should be directed to the computer help desk on campus at 496-3550. Questions concerning class content should be directed to your instructor.

It is important that you read, study, and understand the material provided for the class. Much of the material is thought provoking if read with the intent to understand. The material has been carefully selected so that it presents ideas important to your study. If you prepare the assigned materials before you come to class, you will be better prepared to participate in class discussions.

Class Format

The basic format of the class will be a weekly schedule of preparation, teach one another, and ponder and prove. Preparation will consist of reading the material assigned for each of the 12 topics and studying it with the goal of being able to teach the material to someone else. Teach one another will consist of discussion board and wikin activities designed to help students discuss and explain what they have learned to other students in their assigned groups. Ponder and prove will consist of a quiz

on the reading materials, a self assessment and a one-page essay question that encourages students to summarize what they have learned from the topic.

Each activity folder includes a time estimate for completion of the activities contained in that folder. Each lesson corresponds to one week and includes 9 student hours.

Exams

There will be a pre- and post-test at the beginning and end of the semester respectively to assess the level of students' learning in the course. Only post-test or final exam will count towards your grade. There are also quizzes on the reading materials for Lessons 1-12 which must be taken between Monday and Wednesday of the week in which you will be studying that lesson.

Grading

93-100% 90-92%	A A-	Excellent: "An honor grade indicating superior achievement"
87-89% 83-86% 80-82%	B+ B B-	Good: "An honor grade indicating commendable achievement"
77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	C+ C C-	Fair: "Indicates satisfactory achievement"
67-69% 63-66% 60-63%	D+ D D-	Poor: "Indicates substandard progress and insufficient evidence of ability to succeed in sequential courses"
Below 60%	F	Unacceptable: "Indicates a failure to master information and skills"

Each activity is given a score and the final percent is the percent of total possible points. The score will tell you how much that activity is weighted. Here are some examples:

Activity	Points	Total
Quizzes	10	120
Discussion Boards	15	75
Virtual Classroom Participation	10	100
Wiki Group Assignments	10	90
Journal (Blog) Essays	20	240
Self Assessments	6	72
Pre Test	0	0
Post Test	240	240

Student Honor

Student Honor is following the path of discipleship and learning to be more like Christ--learning to think, to feel, and to act more as He does. *Living a life of honor:*

-- Begins as we learn and live the baseline standards of the Honor Code, understand their purposes, and are true to the promises we have made.

-- Continues as we heed the promptings of the Spirit to raise our personal bar of righteousness and foster a spirit of integrity, sacrifice, consecration, love, service and willing obedience as students and throughout our lives.

-- Prepares our hearts for devoted discipleship in the family, church, work, and community.

[Honor Code](#) | [Academic Honesty](#) | [Dress and Grooming Standards](#)

Students with Disabilities

BYU-Idaho is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office at 208.496.1158. Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by this office. If you need assistance or feel you have been unlawfully discriminated on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established policy and procedures. Contact the Personnel Office at 208.496.1130.



Syllabus Quiz

This quiz will help you identify key items that you will find in the syllabus that will help you have success in the course.



Pre-Test

This test is not scored and will not impact your grade.