

# **Course Outline: America and the World We Live In**

## **AMERICA AS WORLD POLICE POWER (Weeks 1-8 - includes 2-Week Introduction)**

- the United States and the major cultures of the world today
- the European Roots of American Culture
- Europe and America until the *World Wars*
- World War I and the “return to normalcy”
- World War II and the rise of the World Police Power
- the Cold War
- the War on Terror
- TEST FOR WEEKS 1-8

## **AMERICA: REPUBLIC AND DEMOCRACY (Weeks 9-16)**

- the evolving *social contract* of the United States
- the American Revolution
  - the theory of natural rights
- the presence of slavery in the original republican social contract
- the Civil War and Reconstruction
  - emancipation and the theory of civil rights
- women’s suffrage
- racism and the modern Civil Rights movement
- egalitarianism
- TEST FOR WEEKS 9-16

## **THE UNITED STATES AND ITS NEIGHBORS (Weeks 17-24)**

- the idea of *Western Civilization*
- the United States and the Americas today
- the history of Latin America
  - colonial and neo-colonial history
  - independence and the struggle for a “Bolivarian” identity
- the history of Canada
  - colonial history and participation in the British empire
  - post-imperial culture and multiculturalism
- the Americas in an “America-centric” world
- TEST FOR WEEKS 17-24

## **THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY AND AMERICAN CULTURE (Weeks 25-30)**

- America as an advanced industrial society

- the proto-industrial revolution (“Age of Steam”)
- the Industrial Revolution
  - from the transcontinental railroad to the first man on the Moon
  - from the telegraph to the Internet and the smart phone
  - the history of food
- anti-industrialism in American culture
  - Luddism, transcendentalism, conservationism and preservationism
  - modern alarmism
- TEST FOR WEEKS 25-30

### **THE RISE OF EGALITARIAN SOCIALISM (Weeks 31-36)**

- current events in American society
- natural rights and the limited role of government in American society
- civil rights and progressivism
- the Great Depression and rise of the mixed economy
- the “Great Society” and democratic socialism
- the egalitarian theory of rights
- generational change and the future of America
- technocracy
- TEST FOR WEEKS 31-36