History 410: **American Identities in Historical Perspective**  
Winter 2008

T, R 1200-1320 in Vulc 307

Professor: James C. Mohr  
Office: 383 McKenzie  
Hours: T, R 1330-1430, and **by appointment**  
Contacts: 346-5903 and jmohr@uoregon.edu

Week I: Jan 8 and 10

**T.** Problems, theories, and approaches

**R.** America’s Puritan Past  

Week II: Jan 15 and 17

**T.** The Puritan Heritage, Part 2  
reading: read ahead for Thursday

**R.** The US as an embodiment of the Enlightenment  
reading: Seymour Lipset, The First New Nation, 15-98

Week III: Jan 22 and 24

**T.** America’s Revolutionary Heritage  

**R.** Tocqueville’s America, part 1  
reading: Richard Heffner, ed., Tocqueville’s Democracy in America, 26-142

Week IV: Jan 29 and 31

**T.** Tocqueville’s America, part 2  
reading: Richard Heffner, ed., Tocqueville’s Democracy in America, 143-317

**R.** Tocqueville’s America, part 3
reading: no additional assignment

Week V: Feb 5 and 7

T. Tocqueville’s America, part 4: discussion of the texts
   reading: no additional assignment

R. Midterm Exam

Week VI: Feb 12 and 14

T. America’s Identity as the Product of a Frontier Experience, part 1

R. America’s Identity as the Product of a Frontier Experience, part 2
   reading: Richard W. Etulain, ed., Does the Frontier Experience Make America Exceptional?, 45-128

Week VII: Feb 19 and 21

T. American Identity as the Product of a Frontier Experience, part 3: discussion of the texts
   reading: no additional assignment

R. America the Abundant, part 1
   David Potter, People of Plenty, entire book

Week VIII: Feb 26 and 28

T. America the Abundant, part 2
   reading: no additional assignment

R. Identity and Religion
   reading: Seymour Lipset, The First New Nation, 140-169

Week IX: Mar 4 and 6

T. Identity and Class
reading: Seymour Lipset, *The First New Nation*, 170-204

R. Identity and Political Divisions

Week X: Mar 11 and 13

T. Identity and Diversity, part 1

R. Identity and Diversity, part 2
reading: no additional assignment

**Final Exam**: Tuesday, March 18 at 8:00 a.m.

Grading: This course will have a midterm exam (30%), a final exam (30%), and two papers (20% each). The exams will be all essays.

Papers: On five different Thursdays (Jan 24, 31; Feb 21, 28; Mar 6) you will be given take-home essay questions. Your essay-answers (a maximum of four standard pages in length) will be due the following Tuesday at the beginning of class (i.e. you have long weekends to do them). Each student must do two of these essays during the course of the quarter. If you wish, you may do three of them and count your best two grades, but you cannot attempt more than three.