

American Civilization

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Semester Two Syllabus: American Civ

- 1- The United States: An Overview.
- 2- The Discovery of America.
- 3- Settlements in the New World.
- 4- Slavery in the New World.

General Overview

Full Name: The United States of America (**Abbrev.** The U.S. A or the U.S)

Population: The U.S. is the third country with the largest population in the world that is currently estimated at 346,275,807 (according to Worldometer).

Area: The United States is the world's third largest country in terms of size.

Form of Government: Constitution based federal republic.

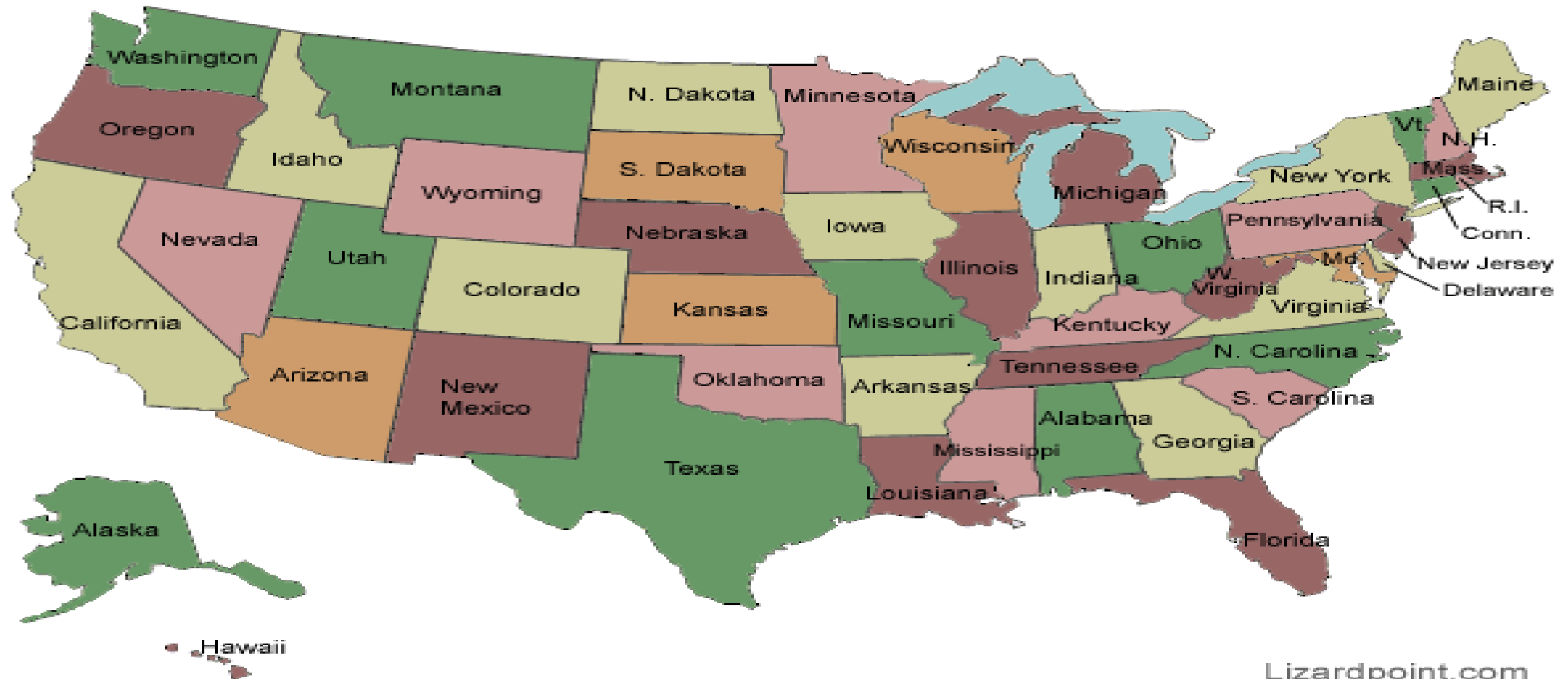
States: There are **50 states** and the District of Columbia.

Capital: Washington, D.C.

Official Language(s): English, Spanish.

Currency: U.S. Dollar (\$)

Map of the U.S.



Geography

What is the difference between the Americas and the United States?

- ✓ **The United States** is a single country within the larger region of the Americas.
- ✓ The Americas is a vast region that consists of North America (including the U.S., Mexico, and Canada), Central America, the Caribbean, and South America.



- ✓ The United States is a country **located** in North America, **bordering** the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean. **Neighboring** countries are Canada and Mexico. The **geography** of the United States is varied, with mountains in the west, a broad central plain, and low mountains in the east.

Ethnic Culture

- ✓ Throughout its history, the United States has been a nation of immigrants. The population is diverse with people from all over the world seeking refuge and a better way of life.
- ✓ In terms of ethnic culture, initial US settlement was largely composed of British arrivals, who shared North America with indigenous Native-American communities and other Europeans, such as the French and the Spanish.
- ✓ Until 1776, over half of the population came from the British Isles. These people gradually assimilated other European settlers into a white, mainly Anglo-American, Protestant dominant culture.
- ✓ They were responsible for promoting many of the new nation's political, social, constitutional, and religious institutions, which produced a mainstream American identity and set of values whose impact is still felt.
- ✓ Their political principles were based on democracy, grass-roots sovereignty (independence of people) and skepticism about the government.
- ✓ Their social values were conditioned by a belief in individualism, a Protestant work ethic (working hard in this life to be rewarded here and in the next) and the rule of law (respect for and acceptance of legal rules applicable to all individuals irrespective of status or wealth).

Religious Culture

Religion is the second major American culture and has its roots in the many faiths that colonists, slaves, and immigrants have brought to the USA over the centuries. Some early settlers escaped the religious persecution in their homelands and hoped to establish communities based on what were often non-conformist beliefs. Others brought established native denominations with them. The religious motivations of many initial arrivals were clear and provided an institutional and moral bedrock for the new nation. **Many later immigrants also often strongly identified with their home faiths and preserved them in the new country.** However, not all settlers or immigrants were religiously inspired. Some traveled for adventure, new experiences, escape from Europeans habits, material gain, and the acquisition of land. Although **religion is a private matter and constitutionally separate from the state**, it forms aspects of social, economic and political life beyond the purely denominational.

Political Culture

- ❑ The American culture has largely been shaped by the central place of law the constitution in American life.

Citizens over the age of 18 years old vote to elect the President and Vice President of the United, very four years.

- ❑ The President lives in the White House of Representatives.
- ❑ There are 100 senators, two from each of the 50 states and each serves a six-year term.

Political Culture: The American Dream

- **The American Dream** is the belief that each American, regardless of background, has the freedom to pursue a better life, achieve success and prosperity through hard work and determination, and enjoy a more comfortable existence.



Assignment

- It is commonly said that "Columbus discovered America." It would be more accurate, perhaps, to say that he introduced the Americas to Western Europe during his four voyages to the region between 1492 and 1502. In a well-detailed paragraph, summarize the details of the discovery of the Americas. (6pts)



**Thanks for Your
Attendance & Attention**