A survey of major developments in United States history, emphasizing economic change and its social impact, the problems and roles of ethnic groups, and America's international relations. Whenever possible, student participation in discussions and lectures is encouraged, and coverage in at least the second half of the course will take student interests into account.

A course calendar will indicate lecture topics and dates, as well as weekly reading assignments, which students should complete in advance of lectures.

Two examinations are scheduled, roughly one hour each, during the semester, as well as the final examination; they are all primarily essay exams with some identification questions. The second hour exam is optional for students who earn better than a C grade on the first one. In addition, each student will prepare a brief paper on some aspect of their family history as it relates to the course.

There is no rigid or precise formula, so that greater weight can be assigned for improvements in performance, but the final exam counts for roughly one third, the two hour exams for roughly one-third, and the paper and discussion section participation for roughly one-third.

The text is Blum, Morgan, et al. The National Experience, 2nd ed., vol. 2. There will be additional assignments of paperback books, about 4 or 5, after consultation with teaching assistants.