

SYLLABUS

ACS461

America's Dates with Destiny

1. April 29, 1607: The Cape Henry Landing (*Rediscovering our Nation's Spiritual Heritage*)
2. March 22, 1622: The Massacre at Henrico College (*Rediscovering the Higher Purpose of Education*)
3. July 8, 1741: Jonathan Edward's Sermon at Enfield (America's First Great Awakening) (*Rediscovering the importance of spiritual renewal*).
4. July 4, 1776: Declaration of Independence Signed (*Rediscovering God as the Giver of Our Unalienable Rights*).
5. January 19, 1786: The Virginia Declaration of Religious Freedom (*Rediscovering our Heritage of Religious Liberty*)
6. September 17, 1787: Constitution Signed (*Rediscovering the Purpose and Plan of Civil Government*)
7. April 30, 1789: George Washington Inaugurated (*Rediscovering the Role of Personal Faith in Public Policy*)
8. May 14, 1804: Lewis and Clark Begin their Expedition (*Rediscovering Respect for the Land and the People*)
9. February 3, 1825: Charles Finney's Sermon at Utica (America's Second Great Awakening) (*Rediscovering the Power of Spiritual Renewal for Social Change*)
10. November 19, 1863: The Civil War and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (*Rediscovering the Source of Our Nation's Unity*)
11. October 28, 1886: Statue of Liberty Dedicated (*Rediscovering the Diversity of Our Heritage*)

These eleven dates will be covered over the course of the 8 weeks, with about one hour devoted to each.

Requirements for the Course

- 1) Class attendance and participation.
- 2) A 3-page, double-spaced reaction paper to one of the dates studied in class.
- 3) Final Exam

Optional Textbook

America's Dates with Destiny, by Pat Robertson

LESSON ONE

Introduction

- 1) During the last 3 decades, early American history has been rewritten.
 - a) No mention of Judeo-Christian heritage in the founding and later history of the nation.
 - b) Religious faith and biblical heritage of our forefathers have been eliminated from the record almost altogether.
 - c) Pilgrim's first Thanksgiving Day is often described "without any reference to their thanking God for their survival in the new land.
 - d) The central role of Christian faith and biblical truth in shaping the charters of our original colonies, has been censored from the historic record.
- 2) World History.
 - a) Joan of Arc discussed without any mention of her faith in God, her religious commitment, or her elevation to sainthood by the Catholic Church.
 - b) Total neglect of role of Christian missionaries, ministers, priests, and laity over the past two thousand years.
- 3) Understanding the facts of our history is the only way we can wisely chart the nation's future.
- 4) Our forefathers, almost to a man, believed in God.
 - a) Students of the Old and New Testaments.
 - b) Deeply influenced by the life of Jesus.
 - c) They founded the nation on principles basic to our Judeo-Christian heritage.
- 5) Over the course of two terms, twenty-three dates will be discussed. These dates cover four centuries and represent major national choices that will influence our history forever.
 - a) The first eleven (the dates discussed in this first course) represent the exciting days in early American history when our forefathers clearly demonstrated the early spiritual directions of this nation
 - b) The second section includes nine tragic dates from our own times that show how far the nation has wandered from its original goals.
 - c) The last section includes three dates that give us hope that our nation is finding its way back to its spiritual heritage.

The Cape Henry Landing: April 29, 1607

The Dream Behind the Cape Henry Landing

- 1) The landing at Cape Henry began as a dream planted in the heart of Richard Hakluyt, an Anglican clergyman and one of England's great Renaissance geographers during the last half of the sixteenth century.
 - a) His dream to see the North American continent explored, settled, and evangelized by England.
 - b) His commitment came from two primary biblical truths.
 - i) The Dominion Mandate. *Have dominion over all the earth* (Genesis)

- ii) Hakluyt believed God was calling European Christendom to take dominion over this New World and all its creatures.
- iii)