Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS
GOVT 329
AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course introduces the student to the idea of “American Exceptionalism” – the notion that the United States of America has played and continues to play a key role in advancing justice and freedom throughout the world. The course examines the unique biblical foundation of American government and politics which in turn has made America a bastion of liberty and freedom. In turn, America’s impact on world politics and history is discussed. Students will also be challenged to thoughtfully examine ways in which America has not lived up to its highest ideals and to formulate strategies for ensuring that America stays on course to uniquely support liberty and freedom throughout the world.

RATIONALE
American Exceptionalism is an elective course designed to introduce and affirm the importance and unique role that America has and will play in modern history. The course examines the principles and history of America’s founding, ways that she has overcome past mistakes such as slavery, and provides discussion of what can and needs to be done in the future to keep America great.

I. PREREQUISITE
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Word
   (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Defend the notion of American exceptionalism from a biblical and historical perspective.
B. Explain the role that evangelical Christianity plays in revitalizing American exceptionalism.

C. Articulate the importance of American exceptionalism in the post-Cold War global arena.

D. Discuss solutions for current challenges to American exceptionalism.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (5)

There will be 5 opportunities for discussion participation on topics provided in Blackboard. Student participation is required and will be graded. The student must use proper netiquette in discussion; quality as well as quantity counts. The student will present his or her own informed opinion on the assigned topic in a 400–600-word thread (with citations to support assertions for full credit). Then, the student will submit 2 replies to at least 2 other students’ threads (the student must not let the minimum be his or her maximum—minimal participation means a minimally passing grade). Each reply must be 200–300 words and must bring in new ideas and analysis. The student must cite course-specific and non-course-specific material in the thread and the replies. Each post must be in current Turabian format.

D. Essays (2)

The student will write a 3–4-page essay with 8–10 sources discussing various issues pertaining to the idea of American exceptionalism. The first essay requires the student to discuss America’s religious history and current religious/political landscape. The second essay requires the student to discuss the history and contours of the “original intent” vs. “judicial activism” debate in American jurisprudence. Each essay must be in current Turabian format.

E. Portfolio

In each module/week of the course, the student will be required to summarize key ideas and solutions to challenges facing America and American exceptionalism. The Portfolio must be written in memo/bullet-point format, include citations from 15–20 sources, and be in current Turabian format.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

| Course Requirements Checklist | 10 |
| Discussion Board Forums (5 at 100 pts ea) | 500 |
| Essays (2 at 150 pts ea) | 300 |
Portfolio  

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B. Scale  
A = 900–1010   B = 800–899   C = 700–799   D = 600–699   F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy  
If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.  
Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance  
Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

VII. Bibliography

# Course Schedule

**GOVT 329**


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<tr>
<th>Module/Week</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Study</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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| 1           | Gingrich: chs. 1–3  
              Wiker: chs. 1–4  
              2 presentations  
              2 articles | Course Requirements Checklist  
              Class Introductions  
              DB Forum 1 | 10  
              0  
              100 |
| 2           | Wiker: chs. 5–8  
              3 presentations | DB Forum 2 | 100 |
| 3           | Gingrich: chs. 4–6  
              2 presentations | Essay 1 | 150 |
| 4           | 1 article  
              7 websites | DB Forum 3 | 100 |
| 5           | Barton DVD  
              3 presentations  
              3 articles | DB Forum 4 | 100 |
| 6           | Gingrich: ch. 7  
              1 presentation  
              5 articles | Essay 2 | 150 |
| 7           | Gingrich: ch. 8  
              Wiker: chs. 9–10  
              1 presentation  
              10 articles | DB Forum 5 | 100 |
| 8           | Gingrich: chs. 9–10  
              3 presentations | Portfolio | 200 |

**Total** 1010

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.