

The Lewis & Clark Expedition

The Corps of Discovery Expedition 1804-1806

Course #	21FLAC
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Linda Honan
Date and Time:	Tuesday, 9:00-11:00 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/28/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	14
Auditors accepted:	Yes, 1

Purpose: This seminar will study the achievements of the first journey from the east to the west coast, following the Missouri River to the Yellowstone River and Rockies and reaching the Pacific at the border of modern Oregon and Washington States.

Description: This seminar is based on the book *Undaunted Courage: Merriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West* by Stephen E. Ambrose. Participants will study Jefferson's plan to explore the lands westward of his Louisiana Purchase to the Pacific. His goals were to stake a claim to this territory before France, Britain or Spain did; to identify unknown animals and plants; to establish friendly relations with Native Americans living there; and to establish the best route to the coast for traders. He chose his personal secretary Merriwether Lewis to lead the expedition. Jefferson explained his choice as follows: "it was impossible to find a character who to a complete science in botany, natural history, mineralogy & astronomy, joined the firmness of constitution and character, prudence, habits adapted to the woods, and familiarity with the Indian manners and character, requisite for this undertaking. All the latter qualifications Capt. Lewis has." Lewis chose his army friend William Clark as co-leader.

Role of participants: Each participant will choose a section of the Ambrose book and give a 20-30-minute in-depth presentation based on their chosen reading, allowing time for discussion.

Resources: Stephen E. Ambrose, *Undaunted Courage: Merriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West*. The moderator will suggest additional resources.

About the Moderator: Linda Honan is a happy Pioneer Valley retiree who has moderated several Five College Learning in Retirement seminars.