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# George Washington: An Ethical Biography

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**OSHER 318-001****Dates:** Thursdays: August 26 – October 1**Time:** 9:30 am – 11:00 am**Location:** The Monson Center, Third Floor Ballroom. 411 E. S. Temple, Salt Lake City. Students must wear masks throughout the course. Distancing will be observed.**Instructor:** Kevin Peterson**Course Description:**

For most, George Washington is the forbidding and aloof elderly man who stares at us from the dollar bill, as cold and hard as Mount Rushmore or the Washington Monument. For some, he is the racist slaveholding planter whose image and memory must be obliterated. This course will attempt to answer the question: Who really was George Washington? Does the life of this 18th Century Virginia planter and revolutionary, this man from a vanished world, have anything of importance to say to those of us in the 21st Century? The premise of the class will be threefold. First: Studying the life and character of George Washington has a great deal to say to us and our age. Second: The course will contend that George Washington was the greatest President that America has ever had, and that, in these disheartening times, there seems to be no one like him on the horizon. The third premise is that, by studying his life, we may have to be our own Washingtons.

**Course Overview:**

- Week 1:** The Forge of Experience, 1732-1759
- Week 2:** American Cincinnatus, 1759-1775
- Week 3:** American Fabius, 1775-1778
- Week 4:** The world turned upside down, 1778-1783
- Week 5:** The Indispensable Man, 1783-1793
- Week 6:** The Servant Leader, 1793-1799