

Course Syllabus for History 1301 (11/SP)

"History teaches everything, even the future." –Alphonse de Lamartine

Instructor: Mr. Robert Glen Findley
Office: Deaderick Hall 201
Office Hours: 09:00AM-11:00AM MWF
09:00AM-09:30AM TTH
or by appointment

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Course objective: Study of the past tells us where we are, where we came from and, to a large extent, where we are going. The survey course(s) in United States history are designed to provide the student with the basic knowledge and understanding of our present institutions through the study of their past development. These courses should also provide the student with a better understanding of such germane disciplines as political science, sociology, philosophy, literature, and economics in addition to preparing the student for careers in teaching, government service, international relations and the law.

Textbook: Brinkley, *The Unfinished Nation*, 6th ed.

Course outline:

Unit One: Creating a Republic
Unit Two: Dividing the Republic
Unit Three: Reconstructing a Nation

Examinations and quizzes: During the course of this semester there will be six short quizzes and three unit examinations. These examinations will be administered on (or about) the following dates: **24 February, 07 April, and 12 May**. A Scantron Answer Form (882-ES green) will be required for each exam. Paper for the content essays will be furnished. The quizzes will occur at random.

Examination make-up policy: Remember that making up a missed examination is a privilege and **NOT** a right! If you have to miss an exam, see me for further instructions. Make-up exams will be administered at the OC Testing Center. There will be **NO** make-ups after the last date for drop-in testing and there are **NO make-ups for the short quizzes**.

Grading policy: All examinations are equally weighted and will count for 4/5 (80%) of the course grade (the highest exam score will count twice). The short quizzes/assignments will count for the other 1/5 (20%). The final course grade will be assigned based on the following averages: **90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, and below 60=F**. Once a course grade is assigned, it is **final!!!** The need to retain eligibility (athletic or otherwise), keep your scholarship, please your parents, get into law school, medical school, etc., may be important reasons to change a grade, but they are not valid. **A final grade is just that—final.**

Academic dishonesty: Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Suspected cheating or plagiarism may result in a reexamination in a controlled environment, a failing grade, or dismissal from the course. As per OC Board Policy **the option is with the instructor:** *In cases of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to impose appropriate scholastic penalties.*

Academic assistance: Help with preparing for exams, writing essays, setting up student e-mail, Blackboard, etc., is available at the Student Success Center. They can be reached at 335-6878 or <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/>

Drops/withdrawal: The last day to drop/withdraw for this semester is **Thursday 14 April**. Keep in mind that this is a student responsibility. Drops/withdrawals initiated after this date are granted in only the most extraordinary circumstances and are at my discretion.

Attendance policy: Attendance is mandatory and, along with class participation, can influence your final grade. Roll will be taken every class period that we are not testing. If you are late to class, it is your responsibility to make sure that you are not counted absent. All material covered in class is your (not my) responsibility. Excused absences may require documentation.

Bonus points: If you attend class, take notes, read the assigned material and prepare for the exams, "extra credit" is generally not necessary. However, since students often request opportunities for "extra credit," I have decided to offer up to ten **pre-average** points for any **one** of the following:

- 1) by registering to vote if you are not currently registered
- 2) if you are already registered, getting someone else (family member, friend, etc) to register
- 3) by voting in a national, state, or local election
- 4) by volunteering to work at the Parker House Museum
- 5) by donating blood (may be done by proxy)
- 6) by joining and participating in the Student Government Association

Documentation will be required and bonus points awarded at my discretion. Ten is the maximum.

Special needs: Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. Issues with special needs will be referred to the Office of Disability Services.

Classroom conduct policy:

- **Attend ... it's the easiest part of your college/university experience**
- **Don't be late ... don't leave ... it's rude, it's disrespectful, and it's duly noted**
- **Stay awake ... look fascinated, even if you are bored out of your mind**
- **Don't talk during lecture ... free speech is not absolute ... but do volunteer to answer questions ... and submit pertinent comments**
- **DO NOT WORK ON OTHER ASSIGNMENTS OR READ OTHER MATERIALS DURING LECTURE!!!**
- **TURN OFF CELLULAR TELEPHONES, BEEPERS, AND OTHER SIMILAR FORMS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS DURING CLASS!!! THIS INCLUDES TEXTING, TWEETING, ETC.**

Additional tips for passing this, or any other, course:

- Don't ask if you missed anything important when you miss a class ... or classes ... if it wasn't important, we wouldn't have talked about it
- Don't ask if you need to know this material for the exam ... again, you are responsible for what is covered in class
- Don't ask if there is anything you can do to improve your grade (especially during the week prior to and of final exams) ... do what is assigned in the first place and you won't have this problem
- Do take advantage of office hours ... it's a good way to get to know the instructor and be remembered ... in a positive way
- Be aware that college is an adult environment ... lecture topics may include material that is controversial in nature as well as adult language and subjects