

Prof. Cade Allen

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**Odessa College**  
**HIST 1301: American History to 1877**  
**Spring 2011**

**Textbook:** Brinkley, *The Unfinished Nation*, vol. 1, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.

**I. Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to provide you with an understanding of the events, people and ideas that have shaped our national history beginning with Native Americans on this continent and the European settlers and the forces there. We will consider the changing nature of everyday life, as well as the political and economic currents that have shaped national policy. This course will include discussions of the American War of Independence, Westward Expansion, and the Civil War.

**II. Attendance**

I do take attendance which will assist me in determining grades at the end of the semester, particularly if you are “on the bubble” between grades. You are paying to be in this class and have made a commitment to be a part of it by registering for the class, and therefore, you should be here. Attendance and participation in class, both through discussion and through note-taking, are essential if you wish to succeed. There will be material discussed in class that is not part of the textbook. Attendance can be both a bane and a blessing to your grade – It is your choice. The course policies regarding attendance are as follows.

1. If you must leave class early, please let me know beforehand.
2. If you miss more than two classes, your final grade will be reduced by three points per absence.
3. Students who habitually sleep in class will be counted absent.
4. Do not be late to my class. If you are late for reasons that do not involve accidents or work, wait until the break and then join class.

**Note:** Packing up early annoys me, and doing so ensures that whatever I am saying will be on the test.

**III. Make Ups**

Make-up exams will be administered only for excused absences, and at a time convenient for the departmental staff.

Make-up exams consist of significantly more writing than “normal” exams. I would encourage each student to attempt to make every effort to not “skip” or miss exams.

#### **IV. Conduct**

1. You will treat one another with respect. Minimally, this means that you should tolerate what others may have to say about a particular topic, even when you may disagree.

2. ALL STUDENTS are to come to class prepared. I come to class prepared and intend to provide a lively and engaging atmosphere for you to pursue your intellectual interests. You must do the same.

3. This is a history class. This means that homework for other classes or extraneous reading should be done at another time. I will warn you once and then ask you to leave my class.

4. Side conversations in class will not be tolerated. I offer ample time for class discussion, and comments and questions are always welcome. Side conversations distract others and inhibit the learning process.

5. Cell phones are to be turned completely off during my class. There is to be no text messaging, ringing phones, or answering of those phones. If you have a pending emergency situation, notify me before class starts.

6. Men may not wear head coverings in my class.

7. Plagiarism, cheating on a test, and unauthorized collaboration with another student on an assignment will result in a zero for the assignment and an "F" in the course.

#### **V. Special Needs**

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability Services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

#### **VI. Grades**

Grades are calculated on a point system. Students should keep track of their grades, and I encourage students to come and consult with me, if you are not doing as well as you would like. Grades are given back to you and I would advise you to keep a running tally of your total points. If you are concerned about your grade, do not wait until the last week of class or finals to come see me. At that point, there is very little I can do. The assignments are worth the following point values. The Grading Scale is listed below.

There will be four exams and one quiz. The professor reserves the right to change the amount and total points of any assignment. I will inform you of any changes that are made to the point scale and value of tests.

**Exams:** 150 points each

**Quizzes:** 50 points each

**Total:** 650 points total

## VII. Lecture & Reading Schedule:

This schedule is subject to change by the professor at any time during the semester. Changes will be announced at the beginning or end of each class, as situations arise.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Lecture Schedule:</b>	<b>Reading Schedule/Assignments:</b>
1/20	Syllabus, Introduction and Themes	
1/27	New World and Conquest	Ch. 1; <b>Quiz #1</b>
2/3	The Invasion and Settlement of North America, 1550-1700	Ch. 2
2/10	The British Empire in America, 1600-1750; Growth and Crisis in Colonial Society, 1720-1765	Ch. 3-4
2/17	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>
2/24	The Revolutionary Republic	Ch. 5
3/3	The New Political Order, 1776-1800	Ch. 6-7
3/10	The Economic Revolution	Ch. 10
3/17	Spring Break	No Class
3/24	<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>
3/31	Democrats and Whigs	Ch. 8-9
4/7	Westward Expansion	Ch. 12-13
4/14	<b>Exam 3</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>
4/21	The Crisis of the Union	Ch. 13
4/28	The Calm Before the Storm	Ch. 13-14
5/5	Deconstruction and the Civil War	Ch. 14
5/12	<b>Exam 4</b>	<b>Exam 4</b>

