

History 1302 (spring 2011)  
History of the United States from 1877  
Course Syllabus

**Instructor:** John McLemore  
**Classroom Hours:** ITV Blackboard  
**E-mail address:** [jmclmore@odessa.edu](mailto:jmclmore@odessa.edu)  
**Emergency contact:** 559-8820  
**Classroom:** ITV—room 146

**Communications:** The best method of communication is via e-mail at the above address—I teach internet courses so I check my e-mail several times a day. On campus, appointments can be arranged.

**Text:** *The Unfinished Nation 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*, Alan Brinkley, Columbia University, 2010.

**Course Objectives:**

As a collegiate level survey course of United States History, this class seeks to examine the evolution of the United States as a country, world power and super power. The class will seek to gain knowledge of the establishment and development of the major political, social, economic, military, and intellectual streams of this nation's history. We will seek to discover the evolving characteristics that have given this country its distinctive history. Since the founding of our country the United States has struggled to provide equality for all its citizens, this course will examine the where, when, who, and how of that struggle. We will examine the changes (good and bad) brought about by that struggle in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. We will also effort to achieve the General Education Curriculum Goals for American History Survey Courses as listed below:

- Examining social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures
- Analyzing the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study
- Comprehending the origins and evolution of the United States with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the U.S. Constitution, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights
- Understanding the evolution and current role of the United States in the world
- Differentiating and analyzing historical evidence and differing points of view
- Recognizing and applying reasonable criteria for the acceptability of historical evidence and social research
- Identifying and understanding differences and commonalities within diverse cultures

***History, as a discipline, is reading and writing intensive and as such this course will be no different.*** However, as technology has made the society and educational system we live in more visual we will attempt to make this course somewhat more visual itself.

## **Introduction of John McLemore...**

As an instructor of American History, I believe it is important to look at history in as many different views as possible so we can form our own opinions. I believe there are some names and dates that are vital and must be learned because they help form a foundation of cause and effect and cause and effect is how I look at history. As we move through the semester I hope students will be able to discern the causes of different events and trends that have had long range effects. Our look at history will examine the social, political, institutional, and governmental changes that have come from the various causes and effects during the last one hundred and twenty five years of United States History. It is my goal, as an instructor, to have students advance their reading, writing, and thinking skills in an effort to form their own opinions about United States History. The ability to form intellectual opinions on the various events of history allows students to become better citizens.

### **Requirements:**

**An annotated timeline will be posted on the discussion board for the course by each student.**

**3 Presidential reviews—one for each unit—this will be explained in class.**

**3 Movie Reviews—will be explained in class and by a handout posted for this course in Blackboard.**

**3 Political Cartoons—this is explained in detail via the posting in blackboard.**

There will be **three major exams** in this course. These are already scheduled and will come on **February 24, April 7, and May 10**, and they are posted on the assignment sheet. The exam on **May 10** will be **the Final and it will not be comprehensive. Each exam will have a review provided one week prior to the exam to help the student prepare for the exam.** The reviews are meant to help the student focus on areas of study that will be emphasized on the exam. It is imperative students maintain their reading.

**GRADES: There is no curve in this course or extra credit.**

**3 exams will be worth 100 points each**

**3 Presidential reviews are worth 50 each for 150 points**

**3 Political cartoons are worth 50 each for 150 points**

**3 Movie Reviews are worth 100 each for 300 points.**

**1 Timeline is worth 100 points**

A = 900 to 1000 points

B = 800 to 899 points

C = 700 to 799 points

D = 600 to 699 points

F = anything below 600 point

**Academic Integrity:**

All students are responsible for adhering to a certain standard of behavior when it comes to honesty and plagiarism. Any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, which includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion will receive an “F” for the course. Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with Odessa College’s regulations and procedures. Any student violating this policy will be removed from this class.

Assignments:

***January 18 to February 24—Unit One—Industrialization to the Great War***

- A. Read Chapters 16-21
- B. Review will be available on February 17 for each student to use as a preparation tool for the exam. Posted on Blackboard.
- C. ***Presidential Review, Movie Review and Political cartoon on February 23***
- D. **EXAM I**—February 24 and 25

***February 25 to April 8—Unit Two—Roaring 20’s to World War II***

- A. Read Chapters 22-26.
- B. Review will be available on March 31 for each student to use as a preparation tool for the exam on April 7.
- C. ***Presidential Review, Movie Review and Political cartoon due on April 6***.
- D. **EXAM II**—April 7 and 8 which will be posted on Blackboard.

**Spring Break—March 14 to 20—Have Fun !!**

***April 9 to May 10—Unit Three-- Cold War to Terrorism***

- A. Read Chapters 27-31
- B. Review will be available on May 3 or students to prepare for the Final on May 10 and will be posted on Blackboard.
- C. ***Presidential Review, Movie Review, and Political Cartoon due on May 9***.
- D. **FINAL EXAM**—May 10 and 11—it will be posted on Blackboard.

**Each unit will consist of reading, Movie reviews, Presidential reviews, Political Cartoons and exams. ALL writing assignments must be done in Microsoft Word and in RTF format—ALL Work will be posted on Blackboard or it will not be accepted!**

1. **INSTRUCTIONS**—are followed to the letter—points will be deducted for failure to follow ALL instructions
2. **We will view lots of film, as I believe history should be advanced visually as much as possible — the information on the video clips will appear on the exams.**

**Spring is usually a difficult time for ITV classes and I don’t expect this semester to be any different. School activities, college visitation, and testing seem to interrupt all too frequently. These interruptions will not be an excuse for not doing the required work and getting it done on time. All late work will be accepted but with a penalty of 10% per week. The later it is, the more it will cost.**

**ADA Standards:**

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.