

Course Syllabus for History 1301 (13/SP)

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

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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.

Course outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.

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

Course outline:

Unit One: Creating a Republic
Unit Two: Consolidating the Republic

Unit Three: Dividing the Republic
Unit Four: Reconstructing a Nation

Examinations and quizzes: During the course of this semester there will be six short quizzes (or equivalent), four unit examinations, and a final examination. Dates for the examinations are **TBD**. The quizzes will occur at random. A Scantron Answer Form is required for each exam.

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. **There are no make-ups for the quizzes.**

Grading policy: All examinations are equally weighted and will count for 5/6 of the course grade. The short quizzes/assignments will count for the other 1/6. 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/>. The Odessa College Student Success Coaches will help you stay focused and on track to complete your educational goals. If an instructor sees that you might need additional help or success coaching, he or she may submit a Retention Alert or a Starfish Alert. A Student Success Coach will contact you to work toward a solution.

Drops/withdrawal: The last day to drop/withdraw for this semester is **Tuesday 16 April 2013**. Please 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.

Student Evaluation of Instruction: The SEI process for face-to-face and online courses is scheduled for the week of 28 April.

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 participating in the Student Government Association
- 5) by being an active member of Phi Theta Kappa
- 6) by donating blood (may be done by proxy)

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 ... do volunteer to answer questions ... and submit pertinent comments**
- **DO NOT WORK ON OTHER ASSIGNMENTS OR READ OTHER MATERIALS DURING LECTURE!!!**
- **A CELLPHONE GOING OFF DURING AN EXAM WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE!!!**

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 ... you are responsible for what is covered in class
- 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