

Austin Graduate School of Theology – Spring 2012

COURSE SYLLABUS FOR HIST 1302

Semester Hours Credit: 3

United States History 2

INSTRUCTOR: Robert C. Williams, PhD.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. History 1302 includes a study of Reconstruction, western settlement, industrialization, corruption and reform, WWI, the Roaring Twenties, The Great Depression, WWII, the Cold War, and the period since.**
- B. History 1302 is a part of the core curriculum mandated by the Texas Legislature for graduates of state institutions. This course is a requirement for all degrees at publicly supported institutions of higher learning in the State of Texas, and virtually all private schools.**
- C. This is an academic course which is a degree requirement, but, in addition to that, assists students in understanding their nation's past and their own heritage.**
- D. Prerequisite: None.**

II INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL

Instructional Materials for this course may be found at

- A. Textbook: David Edwin Harrell, Edwin S. Gaustad, et al. *Unto a Good Land: A History of the American People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005. ISBN: 978-0-8028-3718-9**
- B. Other material as assigned by the instructor.**

III. PURPOSE: Students are expected to enroll for mature reasons—because they sincerely desire to learn. Grades are secondary to this purpose. Students are expected to behave in manner consistent with this purpose. Each student should contribute to a positive learning atmosphere.

IV OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1. Explain the major trends and development that shaped the United States from the Reconstruction to the present.**

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2. **Recognize and demonstrate familiarity with the major people, events and developments in the social, economic, religious and political life of the modern nation.**

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments:

Each student will read material as assigned by the instructor. All students will be expected to read *and master* the material in the textbook, of course. Student with poor reading skills/scores should take remedial courses before enrolling in History 1302.

B. Writing Assignments:

At the beginning of each class, each student will turn in a half-page, typed, synopsis of the reading assigned for that class period. Paragraph #1 will contain a very brief synopsis of the chapter. Paragraph #2 will name the topic that the student found most difficult to comprehend and the easiest topic. Paragraph #3 will name the subject(s) in the chapter that the student found most interesting, and explain why. Use good grammar, composition, etc.

C. Class Performance:

Since the material on the exams will be drawn from both the textbook and the lecture, students are expected to be alert in class and take good notes. Each student is expected to take his or her own notes. Your instructor may ask to see your notes. Students will need to organize material in order to master it.

D. Class Participation

Class discussion is an essential part of the learning process. Students who do not participate are not only damaging their own learning process, they are cheating their fellow students. Class participation may be used in the final grade determination.

VI. EXAMINATIONS

Students should develop their own study guide prior to each exam. No “cheat sheets” or study guides will be supplied. Your instructor will discuss/explain material in each chapter, but there will be no review of that material prior to examinations. Should students have questions, of course, these will be answered.

Pop Tests will be given at the beginning of many classes. These are designed to insure that the students have mastered the material assigned in the reading schedule. There will be no make-up for pop tests, however, the lowest grade will be dropped before averaging.

Scheduled Examinations will be taken during the class period set aside for that purpose, but the instructor reserves the right to change exam dates. Students who are late to an exam will not get any “curve” on the test. Each test will consist of 40 multiple choice questions and 5 short answer essay questions.

Make-up examinations will be available—usually on the day of the final--at the instructor’s option for those with a valid reason for absence, **BUT MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS MAY BE ESSAY**, at the instructor’s discretion. One make-up session will be scheduled with the instructor, and failure to take the make-up exam will result in a grade of 0 (zero).

Examinations are individual efforts, any form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of 0 (zero).

There will be no open-book examinations, all examinations will be closed-book and closed-notes.

VII. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATION

A. The semester grade computation shall use the following formula:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Exam #1 | 25% |
| Exam #2 | 25% |
| Exam #3 | 25% |
| Assignments & Pop Tests (averaged) | 25% |

B. Grade Computation:

| |
|---------------------|
| 90 – 100 = A |
| 80 -- 89 = B |
| 70 -- 79 = C |
| 60 -- 69 = D |
| 0 -- 59 = F |

C. There will be NO “extra credit” or “bonus work.” Study *every day* and pass the tests!

VIII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

- A. **Course Withdrawal:** It is the student's responsibility to withdraw officially from a course if circumstances prevent attendance. Any student who desires to, or must, officially withdraw from a course after the first scheduled class should contact the registrar. It is highly recommended that the student discuss his or her intentions with the instructor before withdrawing.
- B. **Administrative Withdrawal:** An administrative withdrawal may be initiated when the student fails to meet attendance requirements.
- C. **Incomplete Grade:** The College catalog states, "An incomplete grade may be given in those cases where the student has completed the majority of the coursework but, because of personal illness, death in the immediate family, or military orders, the student is unable to complete the requirements of the course..." Prior approval from the instructor is required before the grade of "IP" or Incomplete is recorded. A student who merely fails to show for the final examination will receive a zero for the final and an "F" for the course.
- D. **Electronic Devices:** Cellular phones and beepers will be turned off and kept out of sight while students are in the classroom for this course. An audible or visible cell phone during testing will be grounds for a zero on that test, withdrawal from the course and/or disciplinary action. Text messaging during class is prohibited. Radios, music players and similar devices are prohibited. Laptops may be used to take notes or record the lecture, but other uses during class are prohibited. Recorders (or cell phones used as recorders) are permitted, but may not be played back during class.
- E. **American's With Disabilities Act (ADA):** Students requiring accommodations for disabilities are responsible for notifying the instructor. Reasonable accommodations will be granted in full compliance with federal and state law.
- F. **Instructor Discretion:** The instructor reserves the right of final decisions in all matters pertaining to this course.
- G. **Civility:** Individuals are expected to be aware of what a constructive educational experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Students are to act with civility in the classroom including:

Not visiting with nearby students,
Not sleeping,

**Not doing homework for another course,
 Not reading material other than pertains to this course,
 Not leaving class before the end of the class,
 Not eating food or drinking a beverage unless permission is granted,
 and
 Not using socially unacceptable language.**

- H. Tardiness: Tardiness is rude. The instructor may post a sign on the door when class begins. Entry is not permitted after that sign is posted. Students will not leave class until class is dismissed.**
- G. Attendance: Students with excessive absences will be dropped from the class.**

IX. COURSE SCHEDULE

The instructor reserves the right to adjust the schedule as necessary.

| Date | Assignment | Measurement |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Thursday, January 19, 2012 | First day of class. | Possible pop test |
| Thursday, January 26, 2012 | Chapters 16 & 17 | Possible pop test |
| Thursday, February 02, 2012 | Chapters 17 & 18 (<u>not</u> a typo) | Possible pop test |
| Thursday, February 09, 2012 | Chapters 19 & 20 | Possible pop test |
| Thursday, February 16, 2012 | Chapterrs 20 & 21 | Possible pop test |
| Thursday, February 23, 2012 | Study notes & textbook | 1st Major Exam |
| Thursday, March 01, 2012 | Chapters 22 & 23 | Possible pop test |
| Thursday, March 08, 2012 | Chapters 24 & 25 | Possible pop test |
| Thursday, March 15, 2012 | Spring Break | Celebrate |
| Thursday, March 22, 2012 | Chapters 26 & 27 | Possible pop test |
| Thursday, March 29, 2012 | Chapters 28 & 39 | Possible pop test |
| Thursday, April 05, 2012 | Study notes & textbook | 2nd Major Exam |
| Thursday, April 12, 2012 | Chapters 30 & 31 | Possible pop test |
| Thursday, April 19, 2012 | Chapters 32 & 33 | Possible pop test |
| Thursday, April 26, 2012 | Chapters 34 & 35 | Possible pop test |
| Thursday, May 03, 2012 | Chapters 36 & 37 | Possible pop test |
| Thursday, May 10, 2012 | Study notes & textbook | 3rd Major Exam |