

History 1302: History of the United States Part II

Syllabus- Fall 2009

Instructor: Shawn Tolmsoff

Office PH#:

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Office Hours: MW: 8a-9a

11a-12p

12:55p-1:25p

2:40-3:10p

5:10-5:40p

F: 8a-9a

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

History 1302 is a survey of United States History from Reconstruction to the present. This course will briefly discuss the years following the Civil War known as Reconstruction. This will be followed by investigating the Gilded Age, Industrialization, Progressivism, WWI, the Great Depression, the New Deal, World War II, the Cold War, Civil Rights and the Vietnam War.

PREREQUISITES:

Appropriate score on THEA test or alternative test or completion of READ 0306 with a grade of "C" or better.

CORE CURRICULUM COURSE:

This is a Core Course in the 42-Hour Core of Blinn College. As such, students will develop proficiency in the appropriate Intellectual Competencies, Exemplary Educational Objectives, and Perspectives. The URL for the Blinn College Core Curriculum web site is: www.blinn.edu/corecurriculum.htm

COURSE OBJECTIVES and STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After successfully completing History 1302, students should have a working knowledge of the following:

- Explain the rise of big business and labor unions
- Analyze the main reform movements of the 19th and 20th centuries
- Examine the major social and cultural issues of the 19th and 20th centuries
- Relate the causes of the United States entrance into the Spanish-American War
- Break down the causes of the Great Depression
- Assess the ramifications of the United States' role in World War I.
- Provide the priorities of the United States' involvement in World War II.
- Determine the cause and effects of the Cold War on the later half of the 20th century.
- Analyze the role of the United States in world affairs from the end of the Cold War to the present.

Emphasis will be on major events, personalities, institutional development, and issues of historical perspective.

ADA STATEMENT:

Reasonable accommodations for documented disabilities will be made. Information regarding procedures for documenting disabilities can be obtained from the Counseling

Office. Students must present documentation as soon as possible for the instructor to arrange accommodation.

CIVILITY STATEMENT:

Members of the Blinn Community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others.

ATTENDANCE:

I will take role at the beginning of each class. If you arrive after role has been called you are absent. You know when you are supposed to be here so no excuses. The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students shall find themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in college. Class participation shall constitute at least ten percent of the final course grade. It is the responsibility of each faculty member, in consultation with the division chair, to determine how participation is achieved in his or her class. Faculty will require students to regularly attend class and will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student's name appears on the roster through final examinations. If a student has one week's worth of unexcused absences during the semester, he/she will be sent an e-mail by the College requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss his/her attendance issues. Should the student accumulate two weeks worth of unexcused absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class. There are two forms of excused absences recognized by the institution: (1) Observance of religious holy days. The student should notify his/her instructor(s) no later than the 15th day of the semester concerning the specific date(s) that the student will be absent for any religious holy day(s); and (2) Representing Blinn College at an official institutional function. Other absences may be excused at the discretion of the faculty member. **Please contact me via email whenever you are absent, before hand if possible, explaining the circumstances. If I do not hear from you, I will assume the absence to be unexcused.**

OTHER POLICIES:

Blinn College does not tolerate cheating or plagiarism. Procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy. No Food or drinks are allowed in the classroom. **Cell phones and pagers must be turned OFF before entering the classroom-Text messaging will also not be tolerated!!!**

TEXTBOOKS, SUPPLIES, MATERIALS:

Textbook: *America: A Narrative History*, Volume Two, Seventh Edition. George Brown Tindall & David Emory Shi

Reader: *Readings in United States History*, Volume II, Fifth Edition. Ron Wright, Larry Watson, & Blanche Brick

Biography: *Harry S. Truman: The Modern American Presidency*. Robert S. Ferrell

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Weekly Reading Assignments

Students will be expected to read assigned chapters from the textbook and the Truman Biography each week. It is to your benefit that you read the chapters when they are assigned in order to successfully pass any quizzes or tests that are scheduled. It is impossible for me to cover all the material during lectures and is therefore imperative for students to remain up to date on their outside reading.

Exams

I will drop your lowest exam grade excluding the final. Use this to your benefit. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions, true/false, matching, identification, map identification, essay, etc. There will be three exams and a comprehensive final worth 100 points each for a total of 400 points. The tests will include questions from lecture material as well as chapter reading assignments from the text and the Truman Biography. **Make up exams will be at my discretion. They will be in essay form only!**

Quizzes

There will be 11 quizzes throughout the semester which will cover the weekly reading assignments (Tindall and Shi/Truman Biography) as well as lectures. Your quizzes will be averaged out to a possible 100 points at the end of the semester. I will drop the lowest quiz grade. Quizzes cannot be made up. **Reminder:** These quizzes will consist of material discussed in class as well as the readings so **DO YOUR READING!**

Writing Assignments

Reading Reviews: In addition to the readings assigned there will be three writing assignments. Each writing assignment is due on the day of each exam (excluding the final). I will chose five articles from the Wright/Watson/Brick reader at which time students will chose one to review before each of the three exams. Do not repeat articles. The reviews should be between 1 ½-2 pages; no more, no less. The papers should be in essay form and TYPED in double space, 12 point font. 25 points will be awarded for each paper and will be graded on content and grammar. They should be turned in before each assigned exam. **Please feel free to turn your reviews in early! Reviews will not be accepted late!** These are your articles to choose from:

1. *The Souls of Black Folk*, W.E.B. DuBois
2. *Theodore Roosevelt, President*, Edmund Morris
3. *The Biggest Decision: Why We Had to Drop the Atomic Bomb*, Robert James Maddox
4. *Vietnam: A Necessary War*, Michael Lind
5. *History the Weapon*, Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr.

You can use the Questions that follow as a guideline when writing your reviews.

1. Who is the author and where are they coming from? In other words, do a short biographical summary of the author to figure out their motives.
2. What is historically significant about this article?
3. How does it relate to other historical events of its time-period?
4. How does it relate to today?
5. How does it relate to events in the past and how has it been influenced by the past?
6. Give me your thoughts, conclusions and reactions to the article.

Extra Credit

My extra credit is still a work in progress. I am thinking of producing a list of historical movies for you to watch while answering a series of questions as well. Each extra quiz will be worth five points on the test that came before it.

Test/Quiz/Reading/Extra Credit Schedule (Remember: This schedule is subject to change throughout the semester):

Week 1: Introduction and Tindall & Shi (T/S) chapter 18/Truman chapter 1. Quiz 1

Week 2: T/S Chapters 19-20/Truman chapter 2. Quiz 2

Week 3: T/S Chapters 21/Truman chapter 3. Quiz 3

Week 4: T/S Chapter 22/**Friday September 25th Exam #1/Reading Review #1**

Week 5: T/S Chapter 23-24/Truman chapter 4. Quiz 4 **First extra credit movie quiz**

Week 6: T/S Chapters 25-26/Truman chapter 5. Quiz 5

Week 7: T/S Chapters 27-28/Truman chapter 6. Quiz 6

Week 8: T/S Chapter 28 cont./**Friday October 23rd Exam #2/Reading Review #2**

Week 9: T/S Chapters 29-30/Truman chapter 7. Quiz 7 **Second extra credit movie quiz**

Week 10: T/S Chapters 31-32/Truman chapter 8. Quiz 8

Week 11: T/S Chapters 33/Truman chapter 9. Quiz 9

Week 12: T/S Chapter 34/**Friday November 20th Exam #3/Reading Review #3**

Week 13: T/S Chapter 35/Truman chapter 10. Quiz 10 **Third extra credit movie quiz**

Week 14: T/S Chapter 36/Truman chapter 11. Quiz 11

Week 15: T/S Chapter 37/**Review for Final**

Week 16: Finals

Grading Scale:

3 Exams @ 100pts. Lowest Dropped	=200 points
Final Exam 100pts.	=100 points
11 Quizzes (lowest dropped) Averaged out	=100 points
3 Reading Reviews @ 25 pts.	=75 points
Total Possible Points	=475 points