

Ranger College
Spring 2011 Syllabus

Course Number and Title:	History 1302 - American History
Credit Hours:	3 Hours
Instructor:	Tony Mathison; Curriculum Vitae provided on RC website.
Office Location:	Classroom or campus conference room/computer lab.
Office Hours:	Mainly through email communication or phone messages at RC campuses. Please use these contact opportunities for history facts, your grade, and special circumstances. Please ask a classmate for missed lecture notes.
Telephone/email:	(325)-641-5726,Brownwood;(254)-965-8875,Stephenville, tmathison@rangercollege.edu .

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The American dream, the best the world has ever known, is so grand it can never be reached. On the other hand, the sacrifice of military, political, and social contributors have moved the USA from point A to point B. The course will emphasize, when appropriate, how our own efforts as citizens can move the US to an improved point C.

II. COURSE CONTENT

Our content is the history of the US from 1877 to the present. Special emphasis will be placed on material in the text, presidents, and women in US history starting in 1920. Selected additional historical points of emphasis will include the frontier, the US becoming a world power, the Vietnam War, and race relations.

III. COURSE GOAL

Students will use new historical knowledge toward understanding our society as it was, as it is, and to seek ways to improve the USA. As importantly, the course goal is to be a stepping stone toward completion of a degree and/or certification program pending your answers on the syllabus signature page.

IV. REQUIRED BACKGROUND/ PREREQUISITE

Passing score on the THEA reading section or equivalent alternative test

V. TEXTBOOK/READING/TESTING MATERIALS

Berkin, Miller, Chaney, and Gormley; *Making America: A History of the United States*; Houghton Mifflin Company Publishers, 2008, 5th edition. Also, one Blue Book for the final exam.

VI. Methods of instruction:

Lecture, discussion, participation in group activities, and audio-visual materials.

VII. EXEMPLARY EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

C1: To understand and apply basic principles of radical thinking, problem solving, and technical proficiency in the development of exposition and argument.

C3: To understand and appropriately apply modes of expression in descriptive, expositive, narrative, scientific, and self-expression in written, visual, and oral communications.

HUMANITIES AND VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS (H)

H2 - To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historic and social context.

H7 - To demonstrate knowledge of the influence of literature, philosophy, and/or the arts on intercultural experiences.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (S)

S2 - To examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures.

S5 – To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the areas under study.

S8 – To differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view.

S11 – To recognize and assume one’s responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself and engaging in public discourse.

MATHEMATICS (M)

M5 – To interpret mathematical models such as formulas, graphs, tables, and schematics, and draw inferences from them.

VIII. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. To describe, compare, and contrast the development of the different sections of the US. (C1, S5).

B. To analyze the factors leading to the US becoming a world power (S5, S8).

C. Describe and analyze the major problems that confronted the country during the early 1900s and the beginnings of the New Deal movement. (S5, C1).

D. To describe and analyze the constraints, choices, expectations, and outcomes concerning involvement in wars. (S5, H2, C4, and M5).

E. Analyze and contrast the choices, expectations, constraints, and reform periods of the country relating to women, native Americans, and blacks. (S5, H2).

F. Describe the expectations, constraints, choices, and outcomes of racism in the US. (C5, S5, and M5).

G. To analyze the choices, constraints, expectations, and outcomes of the amendments added to the US Constitution during the year and after the year 1865. (C5, S2, S5, S8, S11, S12, and H2).

IX. IMPORTANT DATES:

Class Begins: Week of Jan. 18th

First Exam: Week of Feb. 21st.

SPRING BREAK: March 14-18.

Second Exam: Week of March 28th

Last week for grade sheets: Week of April 4th.

Final Exam: per RC final exam schedule.

No early or alternate-date final exams will be given unless written instructions are acquired from the Dean of Instruction. A grade of zero can be given pending the professor's discretion for missing a final exam without the Dean's approval.

X. COURSE/CLASSROOM POLICIES:

A. Attendance/Lateness: Class attendance is a requirement. Being late three times can equal one absence. If you anticipate more than four full absences you should take this course at a later date.

** Definition of an excused absences is **“Any “common sense” reason for missing.”** Selected examples are: attending funerals, your own sickness, a child's sickness, having a baby, participation in any college sponsored activities with documentation from the RC staff member in charge, travel problems, and attending any event that **can't** be attended at another time. Excessive sickness might require a doctor's

note. The reality of any absence = There are NOT any excused/unexcused absences or “A Walk”. Any class missed translates to independent study assignments.

B. Independent Study Alternate Assignments: Include yet are not limited to answering chapter questions, research reports, and/or essay assignments.

C. Class Participation: Class participation will include daily work, presentations, debate participation (volunteer basis), and general discussion contributions.

D. Missed Exams/Quizzes/Final Exams

Make-up work/non-final exams must be turned in within TWOs week of returning to class and/or the student being notified by email. Late work comes with a deduction of 15 points (one week), 30 points (two weeks), a zero (three weeks and beyond). No make-ups will be given during ANY class.

E. Missed lecture notes: See “office hours”

F. Academic Dishonesty and Testing Proctors

Any student caught cheating on an exam, report, or project, whether in the classroom or elsewhere, will earn a grade of “F” in the course. It is strongly recommended that the student caught cheating immediately drop the class.

Testing Proctor(s): the professor or a test proctor should be present during testing.

G. Student Behavior

When any activity impedes the learning process of any other individual in the class INCLUDING distracting the professor’s ability to communicate effectively, the individual causing the disruption is subject to a lowered class participation score. Additional consequences may be immediate dismissal from class and dismissed from the course.

- Cell phones are to be turned off and left off. Also, they are to be displayed during exams (some exceptions)
- Lap tops are allowed ONLY for taking notes. If the professor concludes that lap tops are being used otherwise, student(s) will be asked to hand write notes.
- Students are expected to take care of personal needs before or after class.
- Profanity, sexual innuendos, and derogatory remarks will not be tolerated. Students are expected to keep track of their textbooks, hand-outs and other materials.
- Students on scholarship are expected to keep up with their own grade average.
- Never cut down a classmate, even teasing.

H. Available Support Services

ADA statement: Ranger College provides a variety of services for students with learning and /or physical disabilities. The student is responsible for making the initial contact with the counselor and professor before or immediately after the semester begins.

- Because talking in person and privately is prudent for a student receiving ADA support, a student in this situation might consider taking courses taught by full-time professors who have scheduled office hours. The before or after class strategy does not work because non-ADA students often come early or stay late for their own questions.
 - All services are to be used exclusively for the student making the initial contact.

XI: ASSESSMENT (Grade Procedures)

Each student will take three major exams and they are CUMMULATIVE.

XII: GRADING PROCEDURES

Exam 1 = 26.65% of your semester grade

Exam 2 = 26.65% of your semester grade

Final Exam = 26.65% of your semester grade

Other = 20% as described below and concludes the week of exam two.

1. Class Participation = Half of the 20% comes from your effective use of class time (note- see section X, C & G). This is kept each class until at or near exam two.
2. Quizzes = Half of the 20% comes from your quiz/other-daily assignment average. Quizzes are mainly over reading ALL of an assigned chapter.

Note - This 20% of the course ends the week after the 2nd exam.

XIII: A "ONE TIME" ADDITIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

1. Correction opportunities for one of the three exams are offered only ONCE per semester pending pre-approval. The adjustments below will apply:
 - 60 to 79 = 85
 - 40 to 59 = 75
 - 39 or lower = 70
 - 80 to 94 = 95
 - In order to complete a degree, you must develop a successful study strategy even if you have to retake this same exact course as you figure out what works for you.

XIV: GRADING SCALE for course average. (see section X, G, bullet seven)

90 or above = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

59 or lower = F

XV: EXAM SCHEDULE

First Exam: (Chapters 16 to 19)

Second Exam: (Chapters 20 to 24 + 16 to 19 materials)

Final Exam: (Chapters 25 to 30 + 16 to 24 materials)

Exam note- The format of ANY exam can be a combination of the following or it could be a 100% type of any of the following: multiple-choice, true/false, short answer (one sentence), short answer (three to five sentences), and essay with a word-count minimum for full-credit.

XVI. BONUS OPPORTUNITIES

If pre-approved by the professor partially based on time remaining in the semester AND a student's past performance with class participation issues (including no excessive use of the cell phone during class), a student may choose ONE of the three opportunities listed below for a two point course bonus:

1. The **Book Review** must be from a NON-FICTION book. Book reviews are due by the end of the last full week of classes but may be handed in earlier.
2. The **Bulletin Board** project must be a poster board. A written or verbal report must complement this project.
3. Perfect attendance WITH your perfect effort toward getting the most out of each minute of class time.

XVII. FINAL EXAM

Final exams are not correctable except in circumstances that will demand unique adjustments on the student's part. Also, this has to be the one exam you have decided to use your "once in a semester" exam correction for. At some point, a student must figure out productive study skills toward a path of earning a degree/certificate.

XVIII. Admissions, employment, and program policies of Ranger College are non-discriminatory in regard to race, color, creed, sex, age, disability, and national origin.

IXX: Receipt of syllabus

Ranger College: Spring 2011: Hist. 1302

Please legibly print the following information:

Name: _____

Major or certificate plan: _____: Expected completion date? _____

Are you serious about completing the above goal? Yes No

If you answered "Yes" above, are you Ok with the profession going beyond teaching history concepts and also pointing out tips and advice about adjusting your student strategies in a way that might better fit success in higher level classes of any subject? Yes No

Will you be requesting ADA support? (if you do not know what ADA means, this is a no answer). Yes No

Brief Statement about yourself?

Do you have a favorite time period or a favorite person concerning US history during 1877 to 2011? Yes No

If you answered "Yes" above, what is the era or who is the person and why?

I have received and understand the information in the syllabus for American History 1302. I agree to abide by the stated policies.

Signature

Date