

**Ranger College-Brown County Campus**  
Summer 2011 Syllabus

Course Number and Title: History 1301 - 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.

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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 points A, B, C...to whatever point between C & Z we currently are at as a nation. The course will emphasize, when appropriate, how our own efforts as citizens can move the US to point ...Z, a point where ALL US citizens have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

II. COURSE CONTENT

Our content is the history of the US before 1877. Special emphasis will be placed on material in the text, presidents, our economic system, & race relations. Selected additional historical points of emphasis will include the US revolution, Manifest Destiny, causes of the Civil War including significant books, the Civil War, and the unique relationship the US developed with our two international neighbors.

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. The professor will base many of his decisions on this goal. Sometimes, perseverance on the part of the student may require them to use this course as a learning tool for future courses and/or to retake this specific History Course for a higher grade.

IV. REQUIRED BACKGROUND/ PREREQUISITE

Passing score on the THEA reading section or equivalent alternative test

#### V. TEXTBOOK/READING/TESTING MATERIALS

1. Berkin, Miller, Chaney, and Gormley; *Making America: A History of the United States*; Houghton Mifflin Company Publishers, 2011, 6th edition.
2. A blue-book for the final exam.(Ranger Campus Only)

#### 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, expository, 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 nation (S5, S8).

C. Describe and analyze the major problems that confronted the country during the early 1800s and the beginnings of the Manifest Destiny 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 of the country relating to Women, Native Americans, and people of color. (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 before 1877. (C5, S2, S5, S8, S11, S12, and H2).

### IX. IMPORTANT DATES:

Class Begins: May 31<sup>st</sup> (June 1<sup>st</sup>, SV)

First Exam: June 14<sup>th</sup> (June 15<sup>th</sup>, SV)

Date of last Class Participation Grade: June 21 (June 22,SV)

Second Exam: June 28<sup>th</sup> (June 29<sup>th</sup>, SV)

Final Exam: Per Ranger College 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:

Attendance/Lateness: Class attendance is a requirement. Being late three times OR leaving early three times can equal one absence. If you anticipate more than four (two for summers) full absences you should take this course at a later date. If you stay in the course and unexpected events happen, the student should immediately drop the course or contact the professor within 24 hours after a fifth miss to discuss options based on the situation. The student may be expected to do extra work or take a course point deduction to continue in the course if they decide not to drop. Not contacting the professor within 24 hours of a 5<sup>th</sup>, or 6<sup>th</sup> miss may result in the professor dropping the student with an F.

NOTE: Attendance is about patterns, NEVER, a single miss. Please keep this in mind, beyond one absence, with communication with the professor or anyone else you wish to bring into the loop of communication about your performance in a college level course.

\*\* Definition of excused absences is **“Any “common sense” reason for missing.”** Selected examples are: attending funerals, your own sickness, an immediate family member’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** = After one “no-questions asked” miss, there are NOT any excused/unexcused absences or “A Walk”. Any class missed could merit independent study assignments. Contact with the professor is expected prior to being absent or within 24 hours of the miss. (email or phone message: email is BEST)

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

B. Class Participation: Class participation will include daily work, presentation & debate participation (volunteer basis), and general discussion contributions.

C. Missed Exams/Quizzes/Final Exams: avoid as much as possible.

D. Missed lecture notes are between the student and a classmate!!!

E. Make-up work/exams (except final exam) must be turned in within ONE week of the due date and/or exam date (except final exam). Late work comes with a deduction of 15 points after one week, a deduction of 30 points after two weeks; a zero is the grade after two weeks. No make-ups will be given during ANY class.

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 not complying with ANY of the following 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 at ANY time the professor makes that request. (Exams are automatic request). The general request is that they stay off unless there is a need to stay in touch with someone concerning a family sickness and/or emergency.
- Lap tops are allowed ONLY for taking notes. If the professor concludes that lap tops are being used otherwise, student(s) will be asked not use a laptop for any reason during class time.
- Profanity, sexual innuendos, and derogatory remarks will not be tolerated (continued below).
- Profanity, sexual innuendos, and derogatory remarks are not expected to be used when talking with the professor privately before, during break, or after class. The goal is to maintain a "professional" atmosphere connected with our RC experience on all levels of participation.
- Students on scholarship are expected to keep up with their own grade average.

#### 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 in a way that is private in nature.

#### XI: ASSESMENT (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 = 10% from a class participation grade from the first half to two-thirds of class and 10% from your quiz/special assignment average. The two total up to 20% of your course grade.

#### 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:

- 66 to 70 = 75

- 40 to 65 = 70
- 39 or lower = 65

#### XIV: GRADING SCALE for course average.

90 or above = A  
 80-89 = B  
 70-79 = C  
 60-69 = D  
 59 or lower = F

#### XV: EXAM SCHEDULE

First Exam: (Chapters 2 to 5)  
 Second Exam: (Chapters 6 to 10)  
 Final Exam: (Chapters 11 to 15)

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, fill in the blank, short answer, 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 no repeat problems concerning Section X, part G; a student may choose ONE of the four 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 and MUST have the following: pre-approved, about US History, within the time frame of this course.
2. The **Poster** with a verbal presentation. Posters are due by the end of the last full week and MUST have the following: pre-approved, about US History, within the time frame of this course.
3. Perfect attendance including your perfect effort toward getting the most out of each minute of class time for yourself and your classmates.
4. The professor, at their discretion, can award course bonus points for anything that exhibits class related performance ABOVE the norm.\*\*\*

#### 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 exam you have decided to use your "once in a semester" exam correction for. Please understand there are maximum limits to your corrected grade (section XIII). Please do not depend on a corrected final exam to ensure a course grade you prefer.

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: Summer 2011: Hist. 1301

Please legibly print the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Major or certificate plan: \_\_\_\_\_: Expected completion date? \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Statement about yourself?

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Do you have a favorite time period or a favorite person concerning US history during 900 AD to 1877? 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 1301. I agree to abide by the stated policies.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_