NorthWest Arkansas Community College  
History of the American People since 1877

Instructor:    Dr. Chris Huggard, BH 2008, phone: 619-4270, chuggard@nwacc.edu

Office Hours: MW 10:00-Noon, 1:30-3:00pm, T/Th 1-3pm, and by appointment


Course Description: A survey of the history of the United States since 1877. Special emphasis will be placed on the social, political, economic, environmental, international, and women’s and family history.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. understand the major historical trends in the U.S. since the Civil War
2. Be able to use the academic skills:
   a. of critical thinking (analysis, synthesis, evaluation)
   b. of communication (listening, reading, writing, discussion)
   c. of lifelong learning (curiosity, initiative, openness, research)
3. Be aware of cultural diversity:
   a. students will gain exposure to diverse ethical, political, economic, historical, and social perspectives in history.
   b. students will learn about various religious viewpoints concerning the history of western civilization.
4. Be able to write a well-thought-out essay after being given ample background materials and facts from readings and class discussions.
5. Think critically about the past, present, and future of the United States.

Requirements: Students are expected to attend class, read the assigned readings in the text, take the exams, and either complete a term paper or participate in 15 hours of Service Learning (volunteer work at a historical museum or park). Class participation is strongly encouraged. Attendance is essential.

Exams: There will be three exams in this class. Two will be given during the semester and the **Final is Tues., December 13, 10:30am-12:30pm**. Each exam will be worth 100 points and will cover material after the previous exam (not comprehensive).

Make-up Exams: Students are encouraged to make it to all the exams. Make-ups are not given unless there is a legitimate excuse. **All make-ups will be taken in the Burns Hall Testing Center on December 8.**

Point Total For the Class: 100 pts. x 3 exams = 300 pts.  
Term paper or Service Learning = 100 pts.  
Attendance (3 or fewer absences) = 20 pts.  
GRAND TOTAL POINTS = 420 PTS.
Grading:  
90% to 100% = 378 to 420 points = A  
80% to 89% = 336 to 377 points = B  
70% to 79% = 294 to 335 points = C  
58% to 69% = 244 to 293 points = D  
Below 58% = below 244 points = F

Attendance Policy:  
You are required to attend all classes. You will receive 20 points at the end of the semester if you miss three or fewer classes. If you miss 4 or more classes, you will lose all 20 points which will still be calculated in the final grade. Coming late to class is considered rude; therefore, if you are late three times (5 minutes or more), you will be given an absence. This policy rewards the responsible students who attend and participate on a regular basis.

Bonus Papers:  
All bonus papers are valued at 5 points and will be offered periodically during the semester. You are eligible for a bonus only if you attend the class day that it is offered. The papers are due one week after being offered and can be handed in only if you attend the class the day they are due (no papers accepted before or after the due date). In other words, to be eligible for a bonus paper, you have to attend the class in which it is offered and the one in which it is due. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Important Dates:  
Last day to drop with a "W"—November 18  
Thanksgiving Break—November 23-26  
Last class day—December 8  
FINAL EXAMINATION—Tuesday, December 13, 10:30am-12:30pm

Grievance Procedure:  
Consult the NWACC Student Handbook regarding proper steps concerning grievances against other students or professors. Regardless, the first step should be to bring the complaint to the attention of the professor. If this step does not satisfactorily resolve the problem, the student should contact, Judy Tobler (Burns Hall 2010), Departmental Chair for the Social Sciences Department.

Bad Weather Policy:  
For official NWACC closings call NWACC at 619-4377

Rules of the Buildings:  
Eating and drinking are not allowed in the building. Smoking must be done at designated sites.

Course Outline:  
I. The U.S. After the Civil War

II. The New South and American West  
  A. The "New" South  
  B. The American West

III. Late-Nineteenth Century America  
  A. Corporate America  
  B. Urbanization  
  C. Culture and Society
IV. Politics and Government, 1890-1916
   A. Politics and Populism
   B. The Emergence of the Progressives
   C. Presidential Progressivism and Conservation

V. EXAMINATION I

VI. American Foreign Policy
   A. The Rise of Imperial America
   B. Woodrow Wilson & World War I

VII. The 1920s
   A. The New Economy
   B. Popular Culture & Society

VIII. The Great Depression
   A. The Environment & the Coming of the Great Depression
   B. The Great Depression

IX. FDR & the New Deal
   A. FDR & the Alphabet Soup agencies
   B. The New Deal & Its Legacy

X. World War II & America
   A. From Isolationism to Interventionism
   B. America & World War II

XI. EXAMINATION II

XII. The 1950s
   A. Origins of the Cold War
   B. Cold War Politics: Domestic & Abroad
   C. The "Affluent Society" & the Environment

XIII. The Kennedy Legacy
   A. Kennedy's New Frontier & Foreign Affairs
   B. The Civil Rights Movement

XIV. The Vietnam Conflict & the Great Society
   A. LBJ, Vietnam, and the Great Society
   B. LBJ, Nixon, and the end of Vietnam

XV. America in the Post-Vietnam Years
   A. From Watergate to Victory in the Cold War
   B. The State of the Environment Today
   C. The Clinton Legacy?

XIV. FINAL EXAM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 10:30am-12:30pm