

Northeastern State University
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Department of History
Tahlequah, OK
Fall 2000

INSTRUCTOR:

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Office Hours: 8:30-9:00 MWF; 2:00-3:00 MW; 8:30-11:30 TTH; [4:00-4:30 Tues. in Tulsa]
(others by appointment)
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COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER:

CLASS DAYS & TIME:

AMERICAN STUDIES 5833 -AMERICA IN PERSPECTIVE 4:30-7:10 Tues (Tulsa)

NOTE: The content of this course varies by semester. This example was the syllabus used in the Fall 2000 semester. Check with the professor for information about course content for a different semester.

PREREQUISITES:

None

CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

An in-depth study of a specific period, geographical region, or theme from the American past drawing on the literature and methodology of a wide range of disciplines in the Social Sciences and Humanities. May be repeated to a maximum of nine credit hours. This a three credit course and meets a total of 2,400 minutes.

COURSE PURPOSE:

This course is open only to graduate students. It will be of primary interest to students who are a part of the American Studies program and public school teachers who wish to enhance their teaching skills.

This section of this course is designed to provide an in depth examination of American political and international developments since 1930. Economic, military, social, cultural, and intellectual trends that impact the political and international developments of this era are examined with the goal of understanding how these developments have shaped contemporary perceptions and attitudes. The study of events in this period is used as a vehicle for promoting critical thinking and the development of analysis and writing skills.

EXPECTED COURSE OUTCOMES:

As a result of this course students will be guided in developing greater knowledge and skill in the understanding and analysis of political and international developments of the middle years of the twentieth century.

Students will analyze and come to understand:

1. the social, cultural, economic and technological ideas and events of the 1920s and 1930s and their relationship to the political and international events of that era.
2. the causes and effects of the Great Depression and the impact of the New Deal.
3. the rise of totalitarian regimes in Germany, Italy, and Japan and their relationship to the growth of fascism, Nazism, and communism in the 1930s and 1940s.
4. the impact of appeasement and isolationism on totalitarian nations prior to the outbreak of World War II.
5. the causes, events, and ramifications of World War II and be able to identify major leaders of the era.
6. United States foreign policy since World War II, the origins of the Cold War and its foreign and domestic consequences, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the arms race.
7. the reshaping of the United States' role in world affairs and the major political changes in Eastern Europe, China, Southeast Asia, and Africa following World War II with emphasis on understanding the causes of military conflicts in Korea and Vietnam.
8. the economic, social, and political transformation of the United States during and since World War II.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS: (*Required Textbooks, etc.*)

Frederick Lewis Allen, *Only Yesterday* & William Leuchtenburg, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal* [Note: The instructor may duplicate and assign as reading / discussion material selected articles.]

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:

The expected course outcomes will be realized through a variety of instructional strategies to complement students' life experiences. Those strategies may include, but are not limited to, the following: expository-discussion, demonstration, inquiry, and group activities. The instructor also will integrate appropriate multi-media technology for the purpose of enriching the students total experience.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES: (*Attendance/Punctuality*)

EXCESSIVE ABSENCE: The instructor considers regular class attendance to be extremely important. If a student is absent more than 12 hours of class time, the student will normally receive a grade of "F" in the course. Make-up work (see separate statement below for details) is required for all absences (for any reason) beyond three hours of missed classes. Students are responsible for all material presented in lecture during their absence, and for all assignments that may be made during their absence. It is the student's responsibility to obtain information about what was missed during their absence prior to returning to class. Students who enroll late are responsible for all material and assignments missed prior to their enrollment.

REQUIRED MAKE-UP WORK FOR EXCESSIVE ABSENCE: Whenever any student misses more than three hours of class (including class periods missed due to late enrollment and all other reasons), the student will be required to submit a detailed outline of the reading assignment in the textbook for the week when the absence occurred (for those weeks with no reading assignment, the outline should be for the previous week's reading assignment). The outline must be submitted within one week of the absence and must be a minimum of three typewritten, double spaced pages and must effectively summarize the major points covered in the chapter. Failure of the student to submit the outline(s) prior to the beginning of Finals Week will result in a grade of "F" being assigned for the student's semester grade. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up with his own absences, and to submit the required make-up work in a timely fashion. The instructor assumes no responsibility to warn or remind students of the need to complete this make-up work, but will keep attendance records and enforce the policy. (Note: If a student is late to class, entering after role has been checked, the student is officially absent unless he/she stops at the end of class and requests that the role be corrected.)

ASSIGNMENTS:

READING / DISCUSSION SESSIONS: Each week during the semester the professor will assign a portion of the two textbooks and other related readings for discussion at the following class session. The number of pages / chapters will vary each week, but the overall goal will be to focus on *Only Yesterday* and related readings during the first half of the semester and *Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the New Deal* and related readings during the last half of the semester. The instructor will endeavor to engage students in a lively discussion, but if that fails students may be called upon to lead the discussion without prior warning.

MAJOR EXAMS: There will be two major exams. The second of these exams will come during finals week and be a combination hour exam / comprehensive final exam. No notes of any type may be used while taking major exams. After the first major exam a make-up exam will be scheduled. Students who miss the regularly scheduled exam must take this exam, and other students may elect to take this exam in an effort to improve their grade. It is a student's responsibility to make arrangements to take make-up tests at the time they are scheduled. Major exams will include multiple-choice, short answer, and essay type questions. Note: Each exam will involve a written review of one of the textbooks that will be written at the time of the exam. This review will be given significant weight in determining the student's overall exam grade.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT: Each student will be required to complete a special out-of-class assignment in order to earn credit in this course. This will be a graded assignment.

Guidelines for Special Out-of-Class Assignment:

Each student will be required to complete a special out-of-class assignment which conforms to the requirements listed below, or be required to complete a similar assignment arranged with the instructor on an individual basis. Failure to complete this assignment will result in a grade of "F" being assigned at the end of the semester. The grade on this assignment will count for approximately 25% of the semester grade in this course.

Each student will prepare a paper with the title "Social and Economic Impact of World War II on _____ (your family or your town/community)." Requirements for the paper include:

- 1) It must have a minimum length of 15-20 double spaced, type written pages.
- 2) It must be documented as to source of information according to the standards of good academic style manuals. . Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers is the standard style manual in history. Students familiar with the MLA or other standard style manuals may use them.
- 3) It is expected and anticipated that oral history interviews may be an important part of your source material for preparing the paper. However, your paper must have additional types of reference material which might include newspapers, books, photographs, letters, legal documents, and other types of family or community records. This is a graduate level paper. Your bibliography should reflect the level of research expected for graduate level work.

Students should be aware of the fact that the instructor will read and evaluate the out-of-class assignment on the basis of both writing style and content. Papers that contain typing errors, spelling errors, inappropriate or incomplete methods of documentation, etc. will receive inferior grades. (It is the responsibility of the author--not the typist--to proof read the paper and place it in proper stylistic form.)

The content of the paper should be based on careful research. While oral interviews may be an important source of information, such information must be compared and reconciled with other sources of information. Your job is to discover and to describe your family's (or your community's) experience during World War II. How was your family's (or community's) experience similar to (or different than) that of other Americans during this era? What was both unique and ordinary about their experience? How did this event have an impact on the family (or community) and shape the experience and opportunities (or lack of them) in the period that was to follow? What you are being challenged to do is to discover and describe how your family or community was tied to the larger themes of the American experience during World War II.

The due date for this assignment is November 14, 2000. On this date papers should be turned in at class. Students should not turn in any actual photographs or family documents. Make copies of any such items that form a part of the paper and include the copies with the paper. Students should be advised that the paper will be returned to the student for examination, but that the paper will be retained permanently by the instructor. Make a copy of your paper for yourself. ANY WORK TURNED IN AFTER NOV. 14, 2000 MAY RESULT IN THE STUDENT

RECEIVING AN "I" GRADE FOR THIS COURSE.

******Note:** Students will be asked to present an oral presentation based on their research during class meetings scheduled for the weeks of November 14th and thereafter. The length of the report will be indicated to the students prior to the presentations. All students should take notes on these presentations because the instructor reserves the right to include questions from the reports on the final exam. Students should prepare an excellent presentation conforming to the time limits indicated by the professor. The quality of the oral presentation will influence the overall grade on this assignment.

STUDENT EVALUATION:

SEMESTER GRADES: The hour exam and the final exam will have equal value in calculating the student's semester grade. Exam grades will count for approximately 75 % of the student's semester grade with the out-of-class assignment counting approximately 25 %.

GRADING SYSTEM: If a student fails to take a major exam or the final exam, or to complete the required Special Assignment, they will receive a grade of "F" for the semester. The grading scale used to determine semester grades is: 90% or better = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; less than 60% = F. Grades of "I" automatically become an "F" if a student fails to complete the required work by the date specified on the Incomplete form.

EXTRA CREDIT: Students may earn extra credit for approved out-of-class work. Consult with the instructor for advance approval for any such project. The amount of credit will vary depending on the nature of the work undertaken.

POLICY REGARDING CHEATING / PLAGIARISM: All cases of cheating and/or plagiarism that come to the attention of the instructor will be dealt with on an individual basis. Punishment appropriate to the individual case will be assigned and may involve the student being assigned a grade of "F" for the semester.

ADA COMPLIANCE / STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If any student has a disability requiring special accommodations the instructor will work with that student and the University's Office of Student Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations. Please advise the instructor of such a disability and the desired accommodations during or immediately after the first scheduled class period. It is the responsibility of each student with a disability to notify the university of such disability and make an official Request for an Academic Accommodation. Requests should be filed through the Coordinator for Students with Disabilities.

POLICY REGARDING INCLEMENT WEATHER OR DISASTER:

All NSU classes will meet unless an official announcement canceling classes is issued. Decisions concerning classes will be made by 6:00 a.m. (or 3:00 p.m. for night classes) and announcements made over the following news media sources:

Radio Stations:

KRMG 740 AM	Tulsa
KAYI 107 FM	Tulsa
KTLQ 1350 AM	Tahlequah
KEOK 102 FM	Tahlequah
KBIX 1490 AM	Muskogee
KMMY 97 FM	Muskogee
KVOO 1170 AM	Tulsa

Television Stations:

KJRH Channel 2	Tulsa
KOTV Channel 6	Tulsa
KTUL Channel 8	Tulsa
KFSM Channel 5	Fort Smith
Cable Channel 96	Tahlequah

The automated attendant message on 918-456-5511 will be modified to include information concerning campus operations during inclement weather.

This class will meet unless all NSU classes are canceled. Students are not expected to risk life or limb to attend class, but absences due to weather conditions are treated identically to all other absences and make up work is required if the student has already missed three hours of class time prior to the weather related absence. In the event that a test or exam is scheduled on a day when weather conditions are bad, the instructor may elect to postpone the test or exam until the next regularly scheduled class meeting when the test or exam will be given without any additional warning. It is the responsibility of students to keep themselves informed regarding class activities.