Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: HIST 321

Course Title: History of the Modern U.S.

Number of Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Analysis of the United States during the era of Franklin D. Roosevelt. The course explores the story of how Americans endured the Great Depression and eventually prevailed in their struggle against totalitarianism. In particular, it highlights the anxieties of the new era, the stock market crash of 1929, the New Deal policies of FDR, and the military campaigns of World War II. Significant themes of gender, class, power, and warfare will be traced from the twilight of the roaring twenties to the dawn of the atomic age. HIST 122 or instructor’s permission. Occasional offering.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): HIST 122 or instructor’s permission.

Text(s): The required text must be assigned and supplemented with a minimum of two recommended texts. Additional primary and secondary sources may be assigned as well.

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


Hamby, Alonzo L. *For the Survival of Democracy: Franklin Roosevelt and the World Crisis of the 1930s.* Free Press.


Miller, Nathan. *New World Coming.* Da Capo.

Other appropriate scholarly monographs may be assigned as well.

Course Objectives:

- To recognize the main currents of U.S. history during the era of FDR.
- To explore the interrelationships between liberal democratic practices and the military industrial complex.
- To compare and contrast various historiographical perspectives on the modern U.S.

Measurable Learning Outcomes

- Describe the significant people, places, and events shaping the U.S. from 1920 to 1945.
- Analyze the economic factors responsible for the Great Crash and the Great Depression.
- Explain the New Deal programs and measure their success in achieving relief, reform, and recovery.
- Differentiate the major objectives, campaigns, and criticism of FDR's presidency.
- Describe the American responses to totalitarian aggression, especially in the days before the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- Study the experiences of GI's from their first-hand accounts.
- Examine the influence of total war in Europe and the Pacific on the American home front.
- Analyze the factors contributing to FDR's successes and failures as a leader.
- Evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, and trends in the historiography of the modern U.S.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

Because the course represents an upper level history elective, it bears a distinctive responsibility for teaching advanced knowledge within the discipline. It must be distinguished as an advanced course by three structural components: extensive reading, intensive writing, and historiographical thinking. It must require advanced students to complete both in class and out of class projects (i.e., midterms, finals, team reports, quizzes, research papers). It must demand a minimum of 1000 pages of required text reading, 1000 words of type-written work, and a consideration of the range and variance of historical scholarship. Finally, it must develop student skills and abilities for researching diverse sources of knowledge and organizing findings through synthesis.

- Modern Times
- Public Policy in the New Era
- Labor and Welfare Capitalism
- The Culture of Consumption
- Race and Ethnicity Between the Wars
- Liberal Internationalism
- The Crash
- FDR and his Critics
• Agricultural Crisis
• Industrial Unions
• The New Deal Order
• The Coming of World War II
• The Political Economy of World War II
• Liberation of Europe
• A Pacific Without Mercy
• The World that the War Made

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 35

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Brad Lookingbill

Date: May 10, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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