

Spring 2017

Angelina College  
Liberal Arts Division  
History 1301 & 1302 - United States History  
General Syllabus

**BASIC COURSE INFORMATION:**

**A. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties and civil rights.

**B. INTENDED AUDIENCE:** This course will meet the certification requirement for prospective teachers, as required by Texas law. Required of all students seeking an Associate in Arts or Science degree or who plan to transfer to a four year school.

**C. Instructor: Chris Cravens**

Office Location: Latexo High School

Phone: 936-544-5638

Office Hours: not applicable

E-mail Address: [ccravens@angelina.edu](mailto:ccravens@angelina.edu)

**II. INTENDED STUDENT OUTCOMES:**

**A. Core Objectives Required for this Course**

- 1. Critical Thinking Skills-** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- 2. Communication Skills** -to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- 3. Social Responsibility** - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- 4. Personal Responsibility** - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

**B. Course Learning Outcomes for all Sections (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Lower-Division Academic Course Guide manual)**

1. To employ the appropriate method, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. To examine social institutions and processes across a range of periods, social structures, and cultures.\*
3. To use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. To develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
5. To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study.\*

6. To comprehend the origins and evolution of U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on the growth of U.S. and Texas political systems with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights.\*
7. To understand the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world.\*
8. To differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical and differing points of view.
9. To recognize and apply reasonable criteria for the acceptability of historical evidence and social research.
10. To analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public problems.
11. To recognize and assume one's responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy.\*
12. To recognize and understand differences and commonalities within diverse cultures.

### **III. ASSESSMENT MEASURES :**

#### **A. Assessments for the Core Objectives:**

- 1. Critical Thinking Skills**—Students will answer four (4) questions regarding Critical Thinking skills. Each question has an appropriate answer.
- 2. Communication Skills**— Students will answer four (4) questions regarding Communication skills. Each question has an appropriate answer.
- 3. Social Responsibility**— Students will answer four (4) questions regarding Social Responsibility. Each question has an appropriate answer. answer.
- 4. Personal Responsibility**— Students will answer four (4) questions regarding Personal Responsibility. Each question has an appropriate answer.

#### **B. Assessments for the Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States: U.S. Constitution is covered in a series of lectures and class discussions. There will be assigned reading, a quiz, and information will be covered on a major exam.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system: covered in a series of lectures and class discussions; material will be covered on a major exam.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice: covered in a series of lectures and class discussions on the legislative, executive and judicial branches. Material will be covered on a major exam.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government: covered in a series of lectures and class discussions on the legislative, executive and judicial branches. Material will be covered on a major exam.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system: covered in a series of lectures and class discussions. There will be assigned reading, a quiz, and information will be covered on a major exam.
6. Analyze the election process: covered in a series of lectures and class discussions. There will be assigned reading, a quiz, and information will be covered on a major exam.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens: covered in a series of lectures and class discussions. There will be assigned reading, a quiz, and information will be covered on a major exam.
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics: Current events including issues and policies are covered throughout each section of the course.

#### **IV. INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:**(Instructor Specific)

#### **V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES:**

##### **A. Required Textbook and Recommended Readings, Materials, and Equipment**

##### **B. Course Policies: This course conforms to the policies of Angelina College as stated in the Angelina College Handbook.**

**1. Academic Assistance**—If you have a disability (as cited in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) that may affect your participation in this class, you should see Karen Bowser, Room 208 of the Student Center. As a post-secondary institution, you must self-identify as a person with a disability; Ms. Bower will assist you with the necessary information to do so. To report any complaints of discrimination related to disability, you should contact Dr. Patricia McKenzie, Administration Building, Room 105 or 936-633-5201.

**2. Attendance and Tardies**—Attendance is required by the college and will be taken EVERY day. Any student with three (3) consecutive absences may be reported to Angelina College for possible dismissal from class; (4) cumulative absences may be judged as excessive absences from the class and the student may be dropped from the class. No more than 3 tardies per semester are allowed. Punishments for tardies and/or absences may include, but are not limited to: being dropped from the class, losing points on a quiz or major exam (the amount of points and frequency being subject to teacher discretion), and not being permitted to participate in extra credit assignments. If a student decides to drop the course, it is their responsibility to complete the paperwork to drop the course. You must officially drop a class or risk receiving an F in the course.

#### **VI. COURSE CONTENT:**

##### **A. Required Content/ Topics – (*common to all sections*)**

**HISTORY – HIST 1301 – UNITED STATES HISTORY I.** A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the pre-Columbian era to the Civil War/Reconstruction period. United States History I include the study of pre-Columbian, colonial, revolutionary, early national, slavery and sectionalism, and the Civil War/Reconstruction eras. Themes that may be addressed in United States History I include: American settlement and diversity, American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, and creation of the federal government.

**HISTORY – HIST 1302 – UNITED STATES HISTORY II.** A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the Civil War/Reconstruction era to the present. United States History II examines industrialization, immigration, world wars, the Great Depression, Cold War and post-Cold War eras. Themes that may be addressed in United States History II include: American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, urbanization and suburbanization, the expansion of the federal government, and the study of U.S. foreign policy.

##### **B. Additional Content (*as required by the individual Instructor*)**

Students will come to see patterns and cycles in American History, as well as the cause and effects of different events. Major themes of geographical determinism, ethnic diversity, U.S. involvement in world affairs, growth of the national government, and cycles of liberal and conservative politics will be emphasized.

## **VII. EVALUATION AND GRADING:**

### **A. Grading Criteria (*percent, extra credit, etc.*)**

The course will consist of four major exams, which will be worth 100 points each, and will be over material reviewed in lecture notes and in chapter reading from the textbook, and any additional readings or assignments. In addition, four quizzes will be given over the book reading and extra assignments as assigned by the instructor. Each quiz will be worth 25 points. There are no make-up exams or quizzes; if the absence is counted as an excused absence by the school district of the student, then the next quiz or exam may be counted double to replace the missed exam.

Any clicking out of the exam or exam screen, cutting or pasting of outside information, having more than one window open, minimizing the screen, or any electronic manipulation of the exam or any sources outside of the exam on a Blackboard exam or quiz will result in a 0 for the quiz or exam, dismissal from the class, and being reported to Angelina Administration for academic fraud.

### **B. Determination of Grade (*assignment of letter grades*)**

A- 450-500 pts. B- 400-449 pts. C- 350-399 D- 300-349

## **VIII. SYLLABUS MODIFICATION:**

The instructor may modify the provisions of the syllabus to meet individual class needs by informing the class in advance as to the changes being made.