

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

HIST 34633 U.S. History, 1900-1945

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: None

Prerequisite(s): None

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

The political, economic, social, and diplomatic development of the United States between 1900 and 1945.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze the history, society, and foreign relations of the United States during the period from 1900 to 1945, identifying, discussing, and comparing recurrent and variable concepts and themes.
2. Use tools of historical analysis to recover, research, and write about the American past.
3. Evaluate the complexity of both change and continuity over time in American society and culture.
4. Identify the influence of historical interpretation and historiographical schools of thought, as they relate to the history of the United States from the Turn of the Century through the Second World War.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following general education areas.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will examine how events and ideas in American history have evolved, as well as to determine the contributions of Americans to the World community in the first half of the Twentieth Century.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will use the essay format for written presentation of research projects and for exams. Students will participate in class discussions related to Twentieth Century American history to enhance their ability to answer essay exam questions.

Analytical Skills**Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will synthesize materials from various sources to complete research projects and construct answers to essay examination questions. Students will learn to determine historical significance and demonstrate this ability in research projects and exams.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. T.R., Progressivism, and Populism
- B. Woodrow Wilson, New Freedom and WW I
- C. H.L. Mencken and the 1920s, the Literature of Failing Hope (the KKK, Prohibition, Gangsters, Fundamentalism, and Eugenics)
- D. Hoover Dam, the Depression and the Car Culture
- E. FDR, Big Government, and WW II
- F. The Atomic Age Entered