

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

General Syllabus

HIST 41533 History of Arkansas

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Physiographic and demographic patterns; exploration, settlement, and political, social, and economic evolution of Arkansas from the Spanish and French excursions to the present. A study of contemporary policies and government in Arkansas.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Exhibit mastery of essential factual material about the history and geography of Arkansas from prehistoric times to the present.
2. Analyze the history, society, and culture of Arkansas, identifying, discussing, and comparing recurrent and variable concepts and themes.
3. Explain the role of slavery in the development of Arkansas.
4. Describe the development of political institutions in Arkansas.
5. Assess the impact of the Civil War on Arkansas.
6. Describe the economic diversification of Arkansas since the Civil War.
7. Evaluate the impact of the Little Rock Crisis on Arkansas.
8. Use tools of historical analysis recovering, researching, and writing about the past of Arkansas.
9. Explain the complexity of both change and continuity over time in Arkansas society and culture.
10. Explain the influence of historical interpretation and historiographical schools of thought, including their sociological elements, as they relate to the history of Arkansas and the place of Arkansas within the South and the nation.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will examine how events and ideas in contemporary Arkansas society and culture have evolved, as well as to determine the contributions of Arkansans to the society of the South and modern America.

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 relating to Arkansas 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.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Arkansas Geography: The Significance of the Uplands and Lowlands in Arkansas History
- B. The Prehistoric Background of Native Arkansas
- C. The Spanish and French: Exploration and Colonization
- D. American Arkansas from 1803 to Statehood in 1836
- E. Antebellum Arkansas: Politics, Agriculture, Slavery, Religion, Society and Culture
- F. The Civil War and Reconstruction in Arkansas
- G. Arkansas and the New South
- H. The 20th Century through the End of World War II: Progressivism, Depression, Internment Camps and the Mechanization of Agriculture
- I. The 20th Century from 1945 to the Present: Orval Faubus, Industrialization, Central High, Civil Rights, Winthrop Rockefeller, Bumpers, Pryor, and Clinton
- J. Society and Culture in 20th Century Arkansas