The Age of Roosevelt

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

This course deals with American history from 1920-1945. It includes an examination of the domestic and foreign political events affecting the United States from the end of the First World War to the conclusion of the Second. It will focus on political, economic, social and cultural factors that formed the background of modern America.

II. Prerequisite(s):

None

III. Purposes or Objectives of the Course

A. To introduce students to political changes that led to the formation of modern American government.

B. To provide students with a perspective of how economic factors such as prosperity during the 1920s and depression during the 1930s affected the relationship between the federal government and the states.

C. To indicate to students how and why the United States first retreated to isolation and then committed itself to internationalism.

D. To reflect how major social, cultural and political events affecting minorities changed America by the end of the Second World War.

E. To acquaint students with the historiography of the twenties, thirties and forties as a means of reflecting interpretations that constitute critical thinking in terms of the major trends.

F. To educate and train graduate and undergraduate students in the art and science of doing research and writing history, reviewing books, articles, films and presenting oral reports. Additionally graduate students will write a twenty-page paper.
IV. Expectations of Students:

(1) Undergraduate Students.

A. Regular class attendance.

B. Maintenance of class notes.

C. Reading all assigned material.s

D. Participation in class discussion.

E. Timely completion of all written and oral assignments.

F. Demonstration of competence in course content.

G. Successful completion of examinations.

(2) Graduate Students.

Graduate students will complete all of the above requirements, in addition to displaying knowledge of the historiography of this field on their examinations and book reviews as well as writing a twenty-page research paper based on primary and secondary sources.

V. Course Content or Outline (Indicate number of class hours per unit or section):

Section One: (1918-1932)

Fifteen class periods plus one review examination. Each class period lasts approximately fifty minutes.

1. Introduction: The Impact of Progressivism and the First World War on America.
2. The Impact of the Bolshevik Revolution on America: The Red Scare
3. Retreat to Isolation: immigration and tariffs.
4. The Politics of Normalcy: Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge
5. Herbert Hoover, Andrew Mellon and Trickle Down Economics
6. Repression of Dissent
7. Culture During the Twenties
8. Revolution in Morality?
9. The Conflict Between the City and the Countryside
10. The Twenties Prosperity Syndrome
11. The Causes of the Stock Market Crash and the Depression
12. Unemployment, Poverty and Political Scapegoatism: 1929-1932
13. The Depression and American Agriculture
14. The Rise of Franklin D. Roosevelt
15. The Election of 1932
16. Review
17. First Examination
Second Section: (1932-1940)
18. The First New Deal: The One Hundred Days, Banking and Finance--Truth-In-
Securities, Joseph P. Kennedy and the Securities and Exchange Commission
19. The AAA: A New Deal for Agriculture
20. Public Works: CCC, FERA, PWA, CWA, WPA
22. Harry Hopkins, John Maynard Keynes and the Concept of Deficit Spending and 
Monetary Manipulation.
23. Pragmatism and the Conflict with Big Business
24. The Origins of the New Deal Coalition and Interest Group Liberalism
25. Old Progressives and New Deal Scandals
26. FDR and The Good Neighbor Policy
27. Thunder From the Left: Huey Long, Father Charles Coughlin, Dr. Francis Townsend, 
Norman Thomas and Earl Browder
28. Eleanor Roosevelt: First Lady of the World
29. The Appeal of Communism and Socialism
30. The Pragmatic Roosevelt: Senator Robert F. Wagner-- The Social Security Act and 
the National Labor Relations Act
31. The Supreme Court: Schecter Poultry Corporation v. United States; Butler v. United 
States.
Surveys
33. The American Caesar's Imperial Presidency: Urban Corruption, 100% New Dealers, 
Courtpacking, the Democratic Purge, Federal Spending and the Vote, Harry L. 
Hopkins and Keynesian Economics
35. Review
36. Second Examination

Third Section: (1940-1945)
38. U. S. Foreign Policy--1933-1935: Cordell Hull, Sumner Welles and The Good 
Neighbor Policy
39. U. S. Foreign Policy: The Reluctant Belligerent, Neutrality Legislation, Lend-Lease, 
Cash & Carry, the America. First Committee, William Allen White and the 
Committee to Defend America By Aiding the Allies, Joseph P. Kennedy and the 
Jewish Question
40. National Bossism and The Third Term Controversy Surrounding the 1940 Reelection 
of Franklin D. Roosevelt
41. Prelude to Pearl Harbor: the Munich Crisis, Blitzkrieg, Sitzkrieg, Origins of the 
Domino Theory, U. S. Oil and .Japanese Geopolitical Hegemony
42. The European Theater: Geopolitical and Military Strategies
43. The Pacific Theater
44. The Impact of the War on the Home Front
45. The Legacy of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Origins of the Modern Presidency and Government

Final Examination

VI. Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Materials or Equipment:

James T. Patterson, America in the Twentieth Century (New York: Harcourt Press, 2000)

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation:

Undergraduate Students:

A. Three Examinations (100 points each) 300 points
   Two book reviews (50 points each) 100 points
   Total: 400 points

Graduate Students:

The weight of evaluation criteria may vary at the discretion of the instructor and will be indicated at the beginning of each class.

B. Three Examinations (100 points each) 300 points
   Two book reviews (50 points each) 100 points
   One twenty-page research paper based on primary and secondary sources (100 points)
   Total: 500 points