

COURSE OUTLINE

<u>HIS230</u>	<u>Special Studies in History</u>	<u>3</u>
Course Number	Course Title	Credits
<u>3/week</u>	<u>0/week</u>	<u>0/week</u>
Class or	Laboratory	Laboratory, Shop, Work
Lecture	Work Hours	Studio or Clinic Experience
Hours	Experience	Hours
<u>Not Applicable</u>	<u>Not Applicable</u>	<u>15 weeks</u>
Performance on an Examination/Demonstration	Telecourse	Semester Length

Required Materials:

Reference Liberal Arts Division booklist.

Catalog Description:

In-depth and specialized variable studies of some of the major people and problems in U.S. and world history. Course content may vary each time the Special Topics course is offered. The focus will be on individuals and cultural forces. Occasional offering.

Prerequisites: EG 102 or permission of instructor

Corequisites: None

Latest Review: Fall 2004

Course Coordinator:

General Objectives:

The student will be able to:

1. Gain historical perspective on some of the great individuals and social-intellectual forces which have influenced U.S. and World History.
2. Discern various shades of thought which are involved in the analysis of complex historical and biographical problems within a humanistic perspective.
3. Make intelligent evaluations of proposed solutions to the problems referred to in #2.
4. Gain a familiarity with the literature, including periodicals, that are relevant to a problem.
5. Learn to use research aids in the libraries, bookstores, and electronically mediated information.
6. Learn how to appreciate and understand the values of the historical method and the history of ideas.

Mode of Instruction:

1. Lecture/Discussion
2. Mediation, where feasible

Rationale:

The multiple focuses of this Special Topics course will contribute to an understanding of the human condition and human behavior. The specific course suggestions given below will stress the individual and social life and ideas in certain specific periods of history. Variable topics will provide more flexibility and greater depth of study than encountered in traditional survey course.

The course coordinator has found that many two year colleges in New Jersey and in other states have already moved significantly into the Special Topics approach. A biographical approach to history is found in special courses offered at Morris County College and at Mattatuck, Connecticut County College. Many two year institutions feature courses on U.S. Social and Cultural History. The culture and life approach is followed in courses at Camden County College, among others.

Articles featured in The History Teacher and The American Historical Review and in the last several years have suggested the topical, biographical and social-intellectual approaches as useful ways of attracting interest to what appears to be a reviving discipline.

Special interest groups in Mercer County, e.g., senior citizen students and other extension students, as well as traditional students have expressed interest in such an approach and in specific topics such as those explored below. Senior Citizen and P.E.N. constituents are among those most interested in history itself and varied history courses. The courses under the Special Topics umbrella would be ideal for such populations but would be also available for traditional student groups. Such courses afford on-campus students opportunities for specialized historical study.

Possible Course Titles Under the Designation, Special Topics in History Series, may include:

- I. Great Lives: A Biographical Approach to U.S. and World History
- II. The Twenties and Thirties: An Integrated Study of Culture and Life
- III. The Forties and Fifties: An Integrated Study of Culture and Life

Course outline material for these three courses is given below.

- I. Specific Course Outline: Great Lives

(Tentative sequence of lecture-discussions)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Introduction
2-3	Benjamin Franklin
4-5	Thomas Jefferson
6-7	Jim Bridges, Sam Houston, Tecumseh
8	Frederick Douglass
9-10	A. Lincoln
11	Mark Twain
12	Susan B. Anthony
13	The Roosevelts
14	Martin Luther King
15	Thomas Edison

(Above emphasis: U.S.A. - Biographies themselves may be variable, dependent upon interests of students, etc.)

Required MaterialsText: From These Beginnings

Author: Roderick Nash

Editions: 1980

Publisher: Harper & Row

II. Specific Course Outline: The Twenties and Thirties

(Tentative sequence of lecture-discussions)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Introduction
2-3	Politics, Economy & World Issues of 1920's; Harding, Ford & God
4-5	Literature & The Fine Arts in the 1920's
6	Hollywood, Radio & the Automobile: Fade & Fashion
7	Causes of the Depression
8	F.D.R. and the New Deal
9	Literature & Fine Arts in the 30's
10	Film, Radio, the Press & the Public
11-12	Music in the 20's & 30's
13-14	Fashions and Folkways of the 30's
15	Summary

Required MaterialsText: The 20's

Author: Fred Hoffmann

Edition: 1980

Publisher: Collier-MacMillan

Text: Since Yesterday

Author: F.L. Allen

Edition: 1980

Publisher: Harper & Row, Perennial

III. Specific Course Outline: The Forties and the Fifties

(Tentative sequence of lecture-discussions)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Introduction
2-3	Impact of World War II on U.S. Society, Economy & Life
4-5	Literature & Fine Arts in 1940's & 50's
6	Film, Radio, Mass Media of 1940's
7-8	Postwar Trends: Conformity, McCarthy Era, the Intellectuals & the Arts
9	Nostalgia for Truman
10	U.S. in the World at Large
11	Television & Cinema
12-13	Rock & Roll: Conformity, Madison Avenue & Corporation Power
14	Ike
15	Summary

Required Materials

Text: The Crucial Decade and After
 Author: Eric Goldman
 Edition: 1979
 Publisher: Random House-Vintage

Text: Don't You Know There's A War On?
 Author: Kenney
 Edition: 1979
 Publisher: Fawcett Paperbacks

IV. Evaluation:

- Students will take three examinations in the course. Examinations will be made up of essay and identification questions and they will be given during Weeks 6, 11 and 15.
- Students will be asked to prepare one project option as follows:
 - Library research paper (or)
 - Two book reviews in written form (or)
 - An oral presentation on a specific topic of interest for part of a class.
- Quizzes and class grade based on attendance, interest, contributions to class, etc.