

## THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND WORLD WAR II

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This course examines one of the most turbulent periods of modern American history: the Great Depression, the New Deal, and World War II. It will attempt to give students a sense of both the great public events of the era and of the social, economic, and cultural forces that underlay those events.

Students will attend 13 lectures during the two weeks of the course. Each lecture will be followed by a period of questions and answers. There will be a lecture each morning and another in the afternoon. We will discuss selected documents drawn from *Major Problems in American History, 1920-1945*. We will decide on particular documents in our discussions after the lectures.

### **Readings**

Alan Brinkley, *The Unfinished Nation*, vol. II, chapters 23-26 (McGraw-Hill)

Alan Brinkley, *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (Oxford University Press)

Anthony Badger, *The New Deal: The Depression Years* (Ivan R. Dee)

Colin Gordon and Thomas Patterson, *Major Problems in American History, 1920-1945* (Wadsworth Publishing)

### **Schedule of Lectures:**

Day 1. Causes of the Great Depression

Herbert Hoover and the Depression

**Readings:** *The Unfinished Nation*, chapter 23, pp. 603-607, 620-625

*Major Problems*, chapter 7, pp. 183-190 (documents)

Optional: Anthony Badger, *The New Deal: The Depression Years, 1933-1940*, chapter 1, pp. 11-66

Day 2. The Emergence of Roosevelt

The New Deal: “The Hundred Days”

**Readings:** Alan Brinkley, *Franklin D. Roosevelt*;

*The Unfinished Nation*, chapter 24, pp. 628-634;

*Major Problems*, chapter 11, pp. 305-308 (documents)

Day 3: Challengers: Dissidents and the Unemployed

Challengers: The Popular Front

**Readings:** *The Unfinished Nation*, chapter 23, pp. 607-619

*Major Problems*, chapter 13, pp. 372-381 (documents)

Day 4: The Problem of Race

The Rise of Organized Labor

**Readings:** *The Unfinished Nation*, Chapter 24, pp. 637-649;

*Major Problems*, chapter 12, pp. 340-348 (documents)

Optional: Badger, *The New Deal*, chapter 3, pp. 118-146

Day 5: The Great Recession

The American Road to War

**Readings:** *The Unfinished Nation*, chapter 24, pp. 641-645, chapter 25,  
pp. 657-668

*Major Problems*, chapter 11, pp. 399-408

Day 6: World War II and Society

World War II and Citizenship

**Readings:** *The Unfinished Nation*, chapter 26, pp. 669-687;

*Major Problems*, chapter 15, pp. 429-540

Day 7: World War II and Mission and Morality

**Readings:** *The Unfinished Nation*, chapter 26, pp. 688-696