

Dakota College Course Syllabus

Course Title: HIST 220 - History of North Dakota

Credits: 3

Instructor: Aimee Duchsherer Williamson

Contact Info: Please use course mail as your first means of communication with me. If this is impossible for whatever reason, then you may email me at aimee.duchsherer@dakotacollege.edu.

Course Description:

This course will examine the history of North Dakota from earliest geological times forward. Students will examine such subjects as glaciation, land forms, Native American nations, early trading activity, military exploration and outposts, farming and ranching, statehood, state politics, economies, and the development of technology. Within and beyond these topics, this course allows students significant freedom to explore those areas of North Dakota History of greatest interest to them.

Course Objectives:

This course has four objectives.

1. Students will be able to identify key historical events and people and the forces surrounding those events. In other words, students will have a grasp of the basic elements of North Dakota History.
2. Students will improve critical thinking skills through thesis based discussion.
3. Students will increase their familiarity with cultures within North Dakota that are different from their own cultures.
4. Students will take from this course the unique preparation that a digital course offers for a digital age. More and more work is done online, and this requires a new kind of professionalism. The ability to assert one's position in a credible and collegial manner is crucial to communication through electronic media. Proper grammar is of the utmost importance in establishing one's credibility in a world where the written word is the primary means of communication as is the case in digital communication. Particularly in the online world, the written word represents people. This course is designed to prepare students for working in a digital community.

Texts:

- Robinson, Elwin B. *History of North Dakota*.
 - OER (free): <https://commons.und.edu/oers/1/>
 - ISBN-13: 978-0911042436
- Laskin, David. *The Children's Blizzard*. ISBN-13: 978-0060520762
- Sherman, William C., and Playford V. Thorson, eds. *Plains Folk: North Dakota's Ethnic History*. Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND, 1986.
- Free supplemental and primary source materials via the course site.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Total points available = 1,000 points

Testing:

- 4 quizzes (non-cumulative), 50 points each = 200 points
- 1 final exam (cumulative) = 100 points
- **Total: 300 Points**

Quizzes are non-cumulative and multiple choice. The final exam is cumulative and multiple choice.

Discussion:

- Introduction Discussion = 10 bonus points
- 15 Weekly Discussions, 25 points each = 375 points
- **Total: 375 Points**

The heart of this course is **participation**. The weekly discussion fora have four purposes:

- To explore and analyze the readings.
- To build the skills required to craft and support an argument.
- To build writing skills.
- To teach students how to thrive in a professional digital community.

In this class you will learn how to argue logically, with proper grammar and source citation to ensure your credibility.

Exercises:

- Chicago Citation Exercise = 25 points
- Primary Source Exercise 1 = 25 points
- Primary Source Exercise 2 = 25 points
- Crafting a Thesis Exercise = 25 points
- Structuring an Argument Exercise = 25 points
- **Total: 125 Points**

Essay Project Assignment:

- Thesis Statement = 25 points
- Essay Draft = 75 points
- Final Essay = 100 points
- **Total: 200 points**

Optional Extra Credit Paper = 50 bonus points.

Essay is thesis-based, 1,000 words at minimum. Students will provide papers that are polished and free of typos and grammatical errors. There will be abundant opportunity in the Weekly Discussion Boards to fix grammatical problems. Students will select one of the available topic options and will use primary source evidence and the text book to support an argument. Please refer to "Essay Project Assignment" for complete instructions.

Total points available = 1,000 points

90-100% = 900-1,000 points = A

80-90% = 800-899 points = B

70-80% = 700-799 points = C

60-70% = 600-699 points = D

<59% = <599 points = F

No Incompletes will be given.

Due Date Policies

This course is very busy at the beginning of the semester and slows down as the semester progresses. Due dates are firm. Students may work ahead as far and as quickly as they would like; they may set their own pace. Students should be aware that hastily written posts and papers at the last minute will result in poor grades. Students should allow for plenty of time to receive and incorporate instructor feedback.

Submission of assignments after the due date are at the instructor's sole discretion. I will try to accommodate personal, academic, and professional issues that may affect a student's ability to complete an assignment on time but only if the student communicates with me. It is the student's responsibility to manage their time efficiently and contact me as soon as there is a problem. If you need an extension on a due date, you must contact me no later than the due date to request an extension--there will be no exceptions to this policy.

Weekly discussions remain open for a week after the due date--you do not need an extension to submit during that time period.

Tentative Course Outline

Week 1: Native North Dakota

Week 2: Early Native-European Contact

Week 3: The Fur Trade & Early Settlement

QUIZ 1

Week 4: Boom

Week 5: Statehood

THESIS STATEMENT DUE

Week 6: *The Children's Blizzard*

Week 7: Depression and 2nd Boom

QUIZ 2

Week 8: Progressivism and Socialism

Week 9: WWI

Week 10: The Twenties

QUIZ 3

ESSAY DRAFT DUE

Week 11: The Thirties

Week 12: *Plains Folk*

Week 13: WWII

Week 14: The Postwar Years

QUIZ 4

Week 15: Through to the Centennial & Beyond

FINAL ESSAY DUE

Week 16: Catch Up Week and Final Exam

FINAL EXAM

Lecture/Lab Schedule: Online and asynchronous.

General Education Goal & Objective:

Goal 4: Demonstrates effective communication

Objective 1: Expresses ideas through effective writing

- Skill 1: Uses the stages of the writing process to develop, organize, and present ideas in writing.
- Skill 2: Analyzes the demands and possible strategies of a writing task, based on topic, purpose, context, and audience, and then accomplish that task with clarity.
- Skill 3: Demonstrates competent writing that includes a clear, original thesis or claim, appropriate evidence and support, a logical structure, and a style of language that serves the writer's purpose and audience.
- Skill 4: Uses Edited Standard Written English in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and syntax, and presents written work in a style and format consistent with the demands of an academic setting.

Relationship to Campus Theme:

- Students examine how North Dakota's natural resources have shaped its history.
- Students examine how technological developments have affected the state.
- Environmental responsibility is discussed within the class.

Classroom Policies:

Reading the assigned texts is the student's responsibility and is essential to success in this course. It is also the student's responsibility to manage their time efficiently and complete assignments in a timely manner. This academic environment is open and harassment free.

Student Email Policy:

Dakota College at Bottineau is increasingly dependent upon email as an official form of communication. A student's campus-assigned email address will be the only one recognized by the campus for official mailings. The liability for missing or not acting upon important information conveyed via campus email rests with the student.

Academic Integrity:

Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary defines plagiarism as: "The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work." There will be *zero tolerance* of any form of academic dishonesty. If any evidence appears of students not doing their own work, plagiarism, or outright cheating on quizzes/exams, the matter will be investigated. If it is concluded that such dishonesty occurred, the student in question will receive an automatic "F" for the course. Furthermore, the matter will be reported to the appropriate university office and the instructor will participate in any proceedings against the guilty party.

Disabilities and Special Needs:

If you have a disability for which you need accommodation, contact the Learning Center to request disability support services: phone 701-228-5477 or toll-free 1-888-918-5623.