



Course Syllabus: Survey American History since 1865
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
HIST 1233 Sections 201 and 251
Spring 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Whitney Snow

Office: OD 223

Office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (9:00-10:00 A.M.); Tuesdays (8:00-10:00 A.M.); and by appointment

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Course Description

The instructor has designed this course first and foremost with the intention of providing her students with a basic understanding of the themes and events that dominated the American past since the Civil War. For obvious reasons, she has not designed the course to be comprehensive, but rather foundational. It is a course from which further exploration of this nation's history may be launched. In addition to providing students with a broad knowledge of U.S. History, the course will help students critically analyze historical events. The course design also includes interpretive techniques to help students better understand what it is that historians do.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Jill Lepore, *These Truths: A History of the United States* Inquiry Edition Volume 2 with Sources (ISBN: 978-1-324-04652-3)

*Note, the in-class lectures will not include certain textbook content.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, plagiarism, and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), including Grammarly. While other professors may condone or even encourage the use of AI, it is NOT permitted in this class. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading

In this course, students will take twelve quizzes, write one movie assignment, and complete two exams.

Table 1: Grade Breakdown

Assignments	Points
Quizzes (12)	25%
Movie Assignment	20%
Midterm	25%
Final Exam	30%
Total Points	100%

Table 2: Letter Grade Scale

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Quizzes

There will be twelve quizzes. Questions are derived from your textbook *These Truths*. Students will take each quiz via D2L. The window to take each quiz opens on Thursday at 6:30 A.M. and closes on Friday at 11:30 P.M. Here are the instructions:

1. Log onto D2L.
2. Click on the 9-block square at the top of the page and find our class. Click on it.
3. Once you are on our classroom dashboard, click on "Assessments" near the top of the page.
4. Under the drop-down list, click on "Tests." You should see all the quizzes.
5. To take a certain quiz, click on the arrow next to it. Students will have 10 minutes to complete each quiz once they begin testing. Each question is worth 10 points.

Movie Assignment

You will write a 5-6-page essay on either *Pleasantville* (1998) or *Trumbo* (2015). Further instructions are posted on D2L. To upload your movie assignment, log onto our classroom D2L dashboard, look under "Assessments" and then click "Assignments." You should see a dropbox entitled "Movie Assignment." You may submit your essay any time until 11:30 P.M. on the due date.

Exams

This course includes two exams, a midterm and a final, both of which will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. Students will take these exams via D2L. The instructions are as follows:

1. Log onto D2L
2. Click on the 9-block square at the top of the page and find our class. Click on it.
3. Once you are on our classroom dashboard, click on "Assessments" near the top of the page.
4. Under the drop-down list, click on "Tests." You will see "Midterm" and "Final."
5. On the scheduled date, click on the arrow next to "Midterm" or "Final" to begin. You will have 90 minutes. Study guides are available under "Content."

Extra Credit

Extra credit options, usually Zoom talks by academics, can be found under "Content" on our D2L classroom dashboard. Click on "Extra Credit" to see the options. You may attend one or all. Attending one of these talks will be considered a "Bonus Quiz." Essentially, your lowest quiz grade will be replaced with a 100. Note, Zoom informs the instructor what time you log into the meeting and what time you leave. To earn the extra credit, you must stay for the duration of the talk.

Make Up Work/Tests

Legitimate excuses are official university absences, illnesses, and/or close family deaths. Students must provide the necessary proof like university paperwork, doctor's excuses, or funeral remembrance cards. The acceptability of any other excuse is at the discretion of the instructor. If any such excuse is accepted, the instructor will take a letter grade off for every day a quiz, exam, or assignment is late.

Important Dates

Last day to change schedule: January 20-23

Deadline to file for May graduation: February 16

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 29

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

THECB Required Course Objectives

This course fulfills a Texas core requirement for Critical Thinking, Communication, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. As such, the course will assess the following learning objectives: All four criteria are measured through a critical writing assignment, which may include one or more of the following: Substantial essay exam question; a critical and analytical book review; a research paper or project; a reading response paper; or other appropriate assignment as determined by the course professor.

Attendance

If you have three or more unexcused absences, you may be dropped from the class.

Computer Requirements

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of

communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor. Taking this class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ***Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!**

Instructor Class Policies

- Be civil in your discussion interactions. Debate is healthy but, keep it respectful.
- Cell phones should be on silent and put away during class.
- Be mindful of deadlines.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Note, when Midwestern State University cancels face-to-face classes due to inclement weather, any assessment deadlines will be delayed until the university reopens.

Course Schedule

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 January 21-23	Reading: Lepore, Chapter 13	
Week 2 January 26-30	Assignment: Quiz 1	Quiz 1 due by January 30
Week 3 February 2-6	Reading: Lepore, Chapter 14	
Week 4 February 9-13	Assignment: Quiz 2	Quiz 2 due by February 13
Week 5 February 16-20	Reading: Lepore, Chapter 15 Assignment: Quiz 3	Quiz 3 due by February 20
Week 6 February 23-27	Reading: Lepore, Chapter 16 Assignment: Quiz 4	Quiz 4 due by February 27
Week 7 March 2-6	Reading: Lepore, Chapter 17 Assignments: Midterm and Quiz 5	Midterm due by March 4; and Quiz 5 due by March 6
Week 8 March 9-13	Spring Break	
Week 9 March 16-20	Reading: Lepore, Chapter 18 Assignment: Quiz 6	Quiz 6 due by March 20
Week 10 March 23-27	Reading: Lepore, Chapter 19 Assignments: <i>Pleasantville</i> Movie Essay and Quiz 7	<i>Pleasantville</i> Movie Essay due by March 25; and Quiz 7 due by March 27
Week 11 March 30-April 3	Reading: Civil Rights Movement documents on D2L	
Week 12 April 6-10	Reading: Lepore, Chapter 20 Assignment: Quiz 8	Quiz 8 due by April 10
Week 13 April 13-17	Reading: Lepore, Chapter 21 Assignment: Quiz 9	Quiz 9 due by April 17
Week 14 April 20-24	Reading: Lepore, Chapter 22 Assignment: Quiz 10	Quiz 10 due by April 24

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 15 April 27-May 1	Reading: Lepore, Chapter 23 Assignment: Quiz 11	Quiz 11 due by May 1
Week 16 May 4-8	Reading: Lepore, Chapter 24 Assignment: Quiz 12	Quiz 12 due by May 8
Finals Week	Assignment: Final Exam	TBA