



**Course Syllabus: Survey American History since 1865**  
**College of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**HIST 1233-X22**  
**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

**Office phone:** (940) 397-8917

**E-mail:** whitney.snow@msutexas.edu

**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)

**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%
Discussion Posts	15%
Movie Assignment	15%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	25%
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.

## Weekly Discussion Posts

During the weeks with an assigned textbook chapter, each student will initiate a discussion on one of the primary documents at the end of said chapter. "Discussions" can be found on D2L under "Communication." Conversation is strongly encouraged. These fourteen weekly discussions are worth 15% of your overall average. Each will be assessed on a 0-100 scale, and all will be averaged to deduce your overall discussion grade. You are welcome to start a discussion any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. However, your weekly discussion should be posted by 11:30 P.M. Thursday at the latest. This is to allow your classmates to comment or reply to your post by 11:30 P.M. Friday. Further instructions are as follows:

1. Your weekly entry may be on any of the primary source documents.
2. Your entry needs to be at least two paragraphs. Each of your paragraphs needs at least five sentences.
3. You must comment on at least two of your classmates' entries. These comments need to be substantive, not something effortless like "I agree."
4. Remember "netiquette." Be respectful of classmates when discussing subject matter, some of which is sensitive. If a classmate's comment on your post includes a question, please take the time to answer.
5. When analyzing a primary document remember the following components: Who is the individual or who are the individuals behind the document? What is the document about? When was the document written? Where was the document written? Why was the document written? What is the document's significance and why does it matter?

### **Movie Assignment**

You will write a 5-6-page essay on the movie *Pleasantville* (1998). 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 "Pleasantville." 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 other appropriate assignment as determined by the course professor.

### **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, tests, or discussion postings.*** 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.
- Practice netiquette.
- 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.

## Course Schedule

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
<b>Week 1</b> January 21-23	<b>Reading:</b> Lepore, Chapter 13	
<b>Week 2</b> January 26-30	<b>Assignments:</b> Discussion 1 and Quiz 1	<b>Discussion 1</b> and <b>Quiz 1</b> due by January 30
<b>Week 3</b> February 2-6	<b>Reading:</b> Lepore, Chapter 14	
<b>Week 4</b> February 9-13	<b>Assignments:</b> Discussion 2 and Quiz 2	<b>Discussion 2</b> and <b>Quiz 2</b> due by February 13
<b>Week 5</b> February 16-20	<b>Reading:</b> Lepore, Chapter 15 <b>Assignments:</b> Discussion 3 and Quiz 3	<b>Discussion 3</b> and <b>Quiz 3</b> due by February 20

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