



American History to 1865

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

HIST 1133 Section X15

Fall 2026, Aug. 24 – Dec. 10

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Charles L. Cox Jr

Office: PY O-221

Office hours: MW: 9-11, F: 9-10

Office phone: (940) 397-4147

E-mail: charles.cox@msutexas.edu

- For all communication, please use your MSU email. Email is the preferred method of communication for this course. I generally try to respond within 24-48 hours during the week, if not sooner. From Friday at noon until Monday at 7 AM, if you email me and I do not deem the email important, I will not respond. I use the weekend to spend time with my family and friends. I believe in giving you all personal time, and I hope you understand that I deserve mine as well.

Teaching Assistant

- Eden Shumate- etshumate1101@my.msutexas.edu
- Office Hours- M, 12-4 and W, 3-4
- Office Number- PY O-228

Course Description

Students will gain an understanding of American history from European Contact with the Americas through the American Civil War (1492-1865). Students will explore the political, economic, religious, and social development of the United States during this period. This course will highlight the interconnections between peoples across the world and how freedom and slavery developed concurrently in the United States and ultimately ruptured into civil war. Students will gain an understanding of how these historical events and themes continue to influence our world today

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Eric Foner, *Kathleen DuVal*, and *Lisa McGirr*, *Give me Liberty! Plus*, *Seagull 8th Edition*, Vol. 1. ISBN- 978-1-324-11937-1

- It is important that you get the Plus edition as it is the edition that will have your primary source assignments attached to it as well. You can get an E-Book copy

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points/Percentage
Illumine Reading Activities (10 pts a piece)	140/ 25%
Primary Source Analysis x 12 (20 pts a piece)	240/ 20%
Exams x 3 (100 pts a piece)	300/ 30%
Quizzes x 6 (20 pts a piece)	120/ 25%
Total Points	800/ 100%

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	700-800
B	600 to 699
C	500 to 599
D	400 to 499
F	Less than 400

Illumine Reading Assignments

Each week, students will complete the Illumine Reading Activities on D2L. The assignment will open each Monday morning at 12 AM, and students will have until Sunday at 11:59 PM to complete it. Each assignment is worth 10 points.

Primary Source Analysis Assignments

Each week, students will complete a Primary Source Analysis Assignment. Students will have their choice of which primary source they would like to complete from those posted on D2L. Students are expected to write one page (250-300 words) on one of the primary sources that are available for that

week on D2L. Students will have from Monday at 12 AM to Sunday at 11:59 PM to complete the assignment. More information on these assignments will be provided on D2L and in class.

Quizzes

Every two weeks, students will have a quiz on the content from the readings in the book and from the lecture in class. The quiz will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions. You will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz, and they will be on D2L. The quiz will open on Monday at 12 AM the week of the quiz, and you will have until Sunday at 11:59 PM to complete it. Each quiz is worth 20 points.

Exams

There will be three exams. Each exam will cover five chapters, besides the last, which will only cover four (1-5), (6-10), (11-14). Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions and short essay responses. More information on the exams will be given in class.

Final Exam

The Final Exam will be Monday, December 7 from 10:30 AM-12:30 PM. The Final will be exactly like the first two exams you will have taken.

Extra Credit

There will be extra credit opportunities that pop up throughout the semester.

Late Work

I do accept late work, but for every 24-hour period that the assignment is late, 10% will be deducted from the overall grade.

Make Up Work/Tests

Students are permitted to make up work and assignments if they have documented proof of their absence, have spoken to me first, or have a university excused absence for a university function.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Aug. 27. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: Sep. 21. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" Nov. 23. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

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.

Attendance

Students are expected to be at every class and to contribute to the class discussion and lecture. Attendance is a crucial part of your grade. As stated above, you are permitted three excused absences without consequence. After your third, you will lose points for every class you miss.

Online Computer Requirements

This course 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 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!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your professor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Instructor Class Policies

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, discussions, chats, and interactions with other students. Students must display respect and courtesy toward their peers and the professor. If a student displays inappropriate or offensive behavior during class, they will be immediately dismissed from the class. The student will not be permitted to attend class until they meet with the professor and discuss the situation. Once an acceptable solution is agreed to, the student will be allowed to attend class again. If I deem any online messaging to be inappropriate or offensive, I will forward the message to the Chair of the department and appropriate action will be taken, not excluding expulsion from the course. The same rules apply online as they do in person. Be respectful of other students. Foul discourse will not be tolerated. Please take a moment and read some basic information about netiquette (<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>).

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 Student Wellness Center, (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](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access

them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

AI Policy

This course only allows for limited use of Generative AI in course assignments. **Generating text via AI and citing it as your own is academic misconduct, and the instructor reserves the right to give that assignment an F!**

When can you use Generative AI in this course?

- The use of Generative AI is allowed in this course for the following: brainstorming your ideas, checking your grammar, as a study aid to help prepare for quizzes and exams.

When must you avoid Generative AI in this course?

- The use of Generative AI is not permitted for the following: Writing a draft of an assignment, writing entire sentences, paragraphs, or papers to complete assignments.

Why should you limit your use of Generative AI?

- Learning how to analyze information, how to think critically, how to communicate with others, how to discuss and engage with big ideas, and how to work with others is something that we do not want machines or AI to do for us. AI can be a supplemental tool, but your education and professional career depend on your ability to develop a broad skill set independent of reliance on AI functionalities.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. 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
Week 1 8/24- 8/30	Old Worlds and New • Illumine assignment 1 • Primary Source Assignment 1	9/6 at 11:59 PM
Week 2 8/31-9/6	European Colonies and Native Nations, 1600-1660 • Illumine assignment 2 • Primary Source assignment 2 • Quiz 1 due Sunday at 11:59 PM	9/6 at 11:59 PM
Week 3 9/9-9/13	The Rise of Anglo-America, 1660-1750 • Illumine assignment 3 • Primary Source assignment 3	9/13 at 11:59 PM
Week 4 9/14-9/20	Slavery Freedom, and the Struggle for Empire to 1763 • Illumine assignment 4 • Primary Source assignment 4 • Quiz 2 due Sunday at 11:59 PM	9/20 at 11:59 PM
Week 5 9/21-9/27	The American Revolution, 1763-1783 • Illumine assignment 5 • Exam 1, (Ch. 1-5)	9/27 at 11:59 PM

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 6 9/28-10/4	The Revolution Within • Illumine assignment 6 • Primary Source assignment 5	10/4 at 11:59 PM
Week 7 10/5-10/11	Founding a Nation, 1783-1791 • Illumine assignment 7 • Primary Source assignment 6 • Quiz 3 due Sunday at 11:59 PM	10/11 at 11:59 PM
Week 8 10/12-10/18	Securing the Republic, 1791-1815 • Illumine assignment 8 • Primary Source assignment 7	10/18 at 11:59 PM
Week 9 10/19-10/25	The Market Revolution, 1800-1840 • Illumine assignment 9 • Primary Source assignment 8 • Quiz 4 due Sunday at 11:59 PM	10/25 at 11:59 PM
Week 10 10/26-11/1	Democracy in America, 1815-1840 • Illumine assignment 10 • Exam 2, (Ch. 6-10)	11/1 at 11:59 PM
Week 11 11/2-11/8	The Peculiar Institution • Illumine assignment 11 • Primary Source assignment 9	11/8 at 11:59 PM
Week 12 11/9-11/15	An Age of Reform, 1820-1840 • Illumine assignment 12 • Primary Source assignment 10 • Quiz 5 due Sunday at 11:59 PM	11/15 at 11:59 PM
Week 13 11/16-11/22	A House Divided, 1840-1861 • Illumine assignment 13 • Primary Source assignment 11	11/22 at 11:59 PM
Week 14 11/23-11/29	NO CLASS ALL WEEK! Enjoy Thanksgiving!!!	N/A
Week 15 11/30-12/6	Birth of Freedom: The Civil War, 1861-1865 • Illumine assignment 14 • Primary Source assignment 12 • Quiz 6 due Sunday at 11:59 PM	12/6 at 11:59 PM
Final Exam (Ch. 11-14): Will open 11/30 and will close 12/9		