



Course Syllabus: Survey of American History to 1865

HIST 1133 Section x11

Fall 2025

Meeting Time: This is an Asynchronous Online Course

Contact Information

Instructor: Jackson Pearson, PhD

Office: PY O-216

Office hours: Please email the professor to ask any questions or to schedule a ZOOM meeting to discuss any questions or concerns related to the course.

Office phone: (940) 397-4014

E-mail: jackson.pearson@msutexas.edu

E-Mail and Communication Policy

Your MSU e-mail account is the official communication method used in this course. Responses will typically occur within 24 to 48 hours. If your email concerns a grade, you must wait 48 hours after receiving your grade before emailing your question/concern. (Example: if test grades are given back on Monday, you must wait until Wednesday before emailing me concerning your grade. I will not respond to emails sent earlier.) Notice: Please use your school e-mail account to send questions pertaining to this course. I will not respond to messages sent from personal e-mail accounts.

***When sending an email, please put your Last Name, Course and Section Number, and Question Topic in the Subject Line. Example: Pearson, HIST 1133-x11, Quiz 1.**

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

[The American YAWP: A Massively Collaborative Open U. S. History Textbook](#). Vol. to 1877. Eds. Joseph Locke and Ben Wright. (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2019). [yawp_v1_open_pdf.pdf \(americanyawp.com\)](#). (Free online). Use the link and bookmark the textbook to your favorites. For the primary document reader, use the following link. [The American Yawp Primary Source Reader](#).

Dew, Charles B. *Apostles of Disunion: Southern Secession Commissioners and the Causes of the Civil War*. (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2001.) ISBN – 9780813939445. [Apostles of Disunion E-book](#).

Sparks, Randy J. *The Two Princes of Calabar: An Eighteenth-Century Atlantic Odyssey*. (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2004.) ISBN – 9780674032057. [Two Princes of Calabar E-book](#).

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

Students should be aware of existing university support services to help them succeed in their academic journey. Please visit the following link to view tutoring and health services provided by the university. These services exist to help ensure student success. Please visit the following links for more information. [Student Health, Wellness, and Safety](#); [Tutoring and Academic Support Services](#); [Supplemental Instruction](#); [TRiO Student Support Services](#).

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

“As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so.” Academic Dishonesty/Misconduct -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), etc.,- will not be tolerated and will receive an F. For example, “cutting and pasting” from any internet source or poorly paraphrasing (i.e. changing a few words with the synonym function) without citing that source is plagiarism. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct Student Handbook](#)

Generative 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 aide 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 depends on your ability to develop a broad skill set independent of reliance on AI functionalities.

Grading

Assignments	Points
Quizzes (15 at 10 pts each)	150
Exams (2 at 100 pts each)	200
Primary Document Analysis Assignments (10 at 10 pts each)	100
Book Reviews (2 at 75 pts each)	150
Final Exam	125
Total Points	725

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	> 675
B	600-674
C	525-599
D	450-524
F	< 449

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given to assess student completion and comprehension of the assigned readings. Students will take 15 quizzes during the semester for a total of 150 points. Quizzes will assess student comprehension of assigned textbook chapters. In total, the quizzes will account for 21% of the final grade. Each quiz will be due by Sunday at 11:59pm for the week that they are due. Students should read the assigned textbook chapter before taking the quiz. Students will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz once it is opened. Quizzes will consist of 3 discussion questions. Students must answer 2 of the 3 discussion questions. Each answer should be between 150 and 225 words in length. A rubric will be provided. ***Note: all quizzes will be due on Sundays except Quiz 14 and 15. These will be due on Friday, December 5th due to Finals Week.**

Primary Source Analysis Assignments

Students will complete ten primary document analysis assignments during the semester. Students will choose one primary source from a list provided by the professor. Students will evaluate and analyze the primary source by identifying the author/creator; when and where the source was created; explanation of the source and its content; explanation of the source's importance; and its relation to larger concurrent historical themes. Each analysis assignment will be graded for 10 points possible for a total of 100 points. These assignments will account for 14% of the final grade. Primary Source Analysis Assignments will always be due on Sundays by 11:59pm. Students may choose any of the primary sources listed in the module to complete the Primary Source Guide. A rubric will be provided. ***All Primary Source Analysis Assignments will be on Sundays except PSA 10. PSA 10 will be due on Friday, December 5th due to Finals Week.**

Exams

There will be two regular exams in this course. Each exam will count as 100 points each. These exams will have 8 discussion questions. Students must answer 5 of the questions with a 150-225 word response for each question. The professor will provide a list of key terms at least one week before the exam to help students prepare. Students will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to take the exam once the exam is started. These exams will account for 29% of the final grade. Please make sure that you have

uninterrupted time to finish the exam as you only have one opportunity to complete the exam. If any technical issues occur, you will complete an alternative exam of three essay questions.

Book Reviews

Students will write two reviews of required class readings. Students will read Randy J. Sparks, *Two Princes of Calabar* and Charles B. Dew, *Apostles of Disunion*. Students will submit a 650-850-word review of the book. Students should use course content to engage with the book in their response. The prompt will be accompanied with a rubric that includes a grading breakdown. Each review will be graded out of 75 points for a total of 150 points. These reviews will account for 21% of the final grade. The professor will provide a detailed rubric of the assignment on D2L. The *Two Princes of Calabar* review will be due ***on Sunday, September 28 by 11:59pm**. The *Apostles of Disunion* book review will be due ***on Sunday, November 30 by 11:59pm**.

Final Exam

The Final Exam must be completed by Thursday, December 11, at 11:59pm. The final exam will consist of ten discussion questions. Students must answer 6 of the questions with a 150-225 word response. The exam will largely focus on content following the second exam (Jackson's Presidency through the Civil War, 1828-1865), but it will contain a few questions related to material from the first and second exams.) It will count for a total of 125 points (14% of the Total Grade). Students will have two hours to complete the final exam. Please make sure that you have an uninterrupted time period to finish the exam. Any technical issues will result in an alternative all-essay exam.

Extra Credit

The professor may choose to offer extra credit assignments during the course of the semester. If the opportunity arises, the professor will provide clear instructions for the extra credit opportunity. Extra credit assignments may not be offered every semester.

Late Work

Students will be allowed to submit late work for writing assignments; however, for each 24-hour period that the assignment is late, the student will be assessed an automatic 10% penalty from the total points available.

Make Up Work/Tests

Students will only be allowed to make up exams if they provide proper documentation for their absence on test day. If a student anticipates missing class on an exam day, please inform the professor so that the exam may be taken in advance of the anticipated absence. Students who miss class due to a university approved absence will be allowed to make up exams and assignments.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: Thursday, August 28, 2025. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
Deadline to file for graduation: Monday, September 22, 2025. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" Monday, November 26, 2025. [Academic Calendar](#). The majority of assignments will be completed by this point, so you should be able to make an informed decision by this date. It is the student's responsibility to meet with their academic advisor prior to withdrawing from a class.

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

Last Day of Regular Instruction: Thursday, December 5, 2025.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

This course will be taken entirely through D2L. 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 with D2L, please contact helpdesk@msutexas.edu.

Technology Requirements and Expectations

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 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!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classroom 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/) (<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>).

Participating in the virtual realm, including social media sites and shared-access sites sometimes used for educational collaborations, should be done with honor and integrity. Please review the relevant sections of the [Midwestern State University Student Handbook](#) for more information and relevant policies.

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) exist 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](#).

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

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University Catalog. Students must follow the proper appeals process. [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

The following course schedule is the anticipated schedule for the duration of the semester. The schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the professor. Any changes will be communicated to students via email and D2L announcements.

Course Schedule

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Module 1: 8/25-8/31 Topic: North America Pre-1492 and European Contact with Native America	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Review Course Syllabus- Read Chapter 1 in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Quiz 1.- Review Primary Sources in Module 1 and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for 1 primary source.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Quiz 1: Sunday, Aug. 31 by 11:59pm- Primary Source Analysis 1: Sunday, Aug. 31 by 11:59pm
Module 2: 9/1-9/7 Topic: Colliding European and Native American Cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Read Chapter 2 in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Quiz 2.- Review Primary Sources in Module 2 and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for 1 primary source.- Read Prologue and Chapter One in <i>Two Princes of Calabar</i>.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Quiz 2: Sunday, September 7 by 11:59pm- Primary Source Analysis 2: Sunday, Sept. 7 by 11:59pm
Module 3: 9/8-9/14 Topic: British North America	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Read Chapter 3 in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Quiz 3.- Review Primary Sources in Module 3 and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for 1 primary source.- Read Chapter 2 and 3 in <i>Two Princes of Calabar</i>.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Quiz 3: Sunday, September 14 by 11:59pm.- Primary Source Analysis 3: Sunday, Sept. 14 by 11:59pm.
Module 4: 9/15-9/21 Topic: Colonial Society and Imperial Competition in the 18 th Century	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Read Chapter 4 in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Quiz 4.- Review Primary Sources in Module 4 and complete a- Finish Reading <i>Two Princes of Calabar</i> and begin writing book review. It is due at the end of Module 5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Quiz 4: Sunday, September 21 by 11:59pm.- Primary Source Analysis 4: Sunday, September 21 by 11:59pm.

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Module 5: 9/22-9/28 Topic: The American Revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 5 in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Quiz 5. - Review Primary Sources in Module 5. - Complete Book Review of <i>Two Princes of Calabar</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz 5: Sunday, September 28 by 11:59pm. - Book Review of <i>Two Princes of Calabar</i>: Sunday, Sept. 28 by 11:59pm.
Module 6: 9/29-10/5 Topic: Exam 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Exam 1. Exam 1 will review content from Chapters 1-5 in <i>The American Yawp</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exam 1: Sunday, October 5 by 11:59pm.
Module 7: 10/6-10/12 Topic: The New Nation and The Early Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 6 and 7 in <i>American Yawp</i>. - Take Quiz 6 & 7. - Review Primary Sources in Module 7. - Choose 1 primary source from Module 7 and complete a primary source analysis guide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz 6 is due Sunday, October 12, by 11:59pm. - Primary Source Analysis 5 is due Sunday, October 12, by 11:59pm. - Quiz 7 is due Sunday, October 12, by 11:59pm.
Module 8: 10/13-10/19 Topic: The Market Revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 8 in <i>American Yawp</i>. - Review Primary Sources in Module 8. - Choose 1 primary source from Module 8 and complete a primary source analysis guide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz 8 is due Sunday, October 19, by 11:59pm. - Primary Source Analysis 6 is due Sunday, October 19, by 11:59pm.
Module 9: 10/20-10/26 Topic: Democracy in America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 9 in <i>American Yawp</i>. - Review Primary Sources in Module 9. - Choose 1 primary source and complete a primary source analysis guide. - Read <i>Apostles of Disunion</i> Introduction and Chapter 1. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz 9 is due Sunday, October 26, by 11:59pm. - Primary Source Analysis 7 is due Sunday, October 26, by 11:59pm.

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Module 10: 10/27-11/2 Topic: Religion and Reform in America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 10 in <i>American Yawp</i>. - Take Quiz 10. - Review Primary Sources in Module 10. - Choose 1 primary source and complete a primary source analysis guide. - Read <i>Apostles of Disunion</i> Chapters 2 & 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz 10 is due Sunday, November 2, by 11:59pm. - Primary Source Analysis 8 is due Sunday, November 2, by 11:59pm.
Module 11: 11/3-11/9 Topic: Exam 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take Exam 2. It will cover material from Chapters 6-10 in <i>The American Yawp</i>. - Read <i>Apostles of Disunion</i> Chapter 4 & 5. - Begin <i>Apostles of Disunion</i> Book Review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exam 2 is due Sunday, November 9, by 11:59pm.
Module 12: 11/10-11/16 Topic: The Cotton Revolution and Manifest Destiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 11 and 12 in <i>American Yawp</i>. - Take Quiz 11 & 12. - Review Primary Sources in Module 12. - Finish Reading <i>Apostles of Disunion</i>. - Continue Writing Book Review of <i>Apostles of Disunion</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz 11 is due Sunday, November 16, by 11:59pm. - Quiz 12 is due Sunday, November 16, by 11:59pm.
Module 13: 11/17-11/23 Topic: The Sectional Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 13 in <i>American Yawp</i>. - Take Quiz 13. - Review Primary Sources in Module 13. - Choose 1 primary source from Module 13 and complete a primary source analysis guide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz 13 is due Sunday, November 23, by 11:59pm. - Primary Source Analysis 9 is due Sunday, November 23, by 11:59pm.
Module 14: 11/24-11/30 Topic: Book Review of <i>Apostles of Disunion</i> / Thanksgiving Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please submit your book review of <i>Apostles of Disunion</i> by Tuesday, November 25, by 11:59pm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Apostles of Disunion</i> Book Review is due Sunday, November 30, by 11:59pm.

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
<p>Module 15: 12/1-12/7</p> <p>Topic: The Civil War</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 14 in <i>American Yawp</i>. - Take Quiz 14. - Review Primary Sources in Module 15. - Choose 1 primary source from Module 15 and complete a primary source analysis guide. *This is due on Thursday, December 4. - Take Quiz 15. This quiz is a review of your experience in the course. It will not cover any course material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz 14 is due Friday, December 5, by 11:59pm. - Primary Source Analysis 10 is due Friday, December 5 by 11:59pm. - Quiz 15 is due Friday, December 5, by 11:59pm.
<p>Module 16: 12/8-12/11</p> <p>Topic: Finals Week and Final Exam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Exam must be completed and submitted by Thursday, December 11 by 11:59pm. - The Final Exam will mostly cover material from Chapters 11-14 in <i>The American Yawp</i>, but it will include a few questions from the material covered on Exams 1 and 2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Exam is due Thursday, December 11 by 11:59pm.