



Course Syllabus: Survey of American History to 1865

College of Liberal Arts
HIST 1133 Section 108
Fall 2026 – TR 11:00am–12:20am
PY 103

Contact Information

Instructor: Jackson Pearson
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Office hours: MWF (9:30am-10:45am) & TR (12:30pm-1:30pm) or by appointment.
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Directory Link: [Jackson Pearson - MSU Texas Directory](#).

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.

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.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

*The following materials are assigned for use in the course to help students gain a broader understanding of American history prior to 1865. The authors' viewpoints are their own and not necessarily endorsed by the university. Additionally, not all content contained in the materials will be assigned reading.

[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). **(Free online)**. Use the link and bookmark the textbook to your favorites. For the primary document reader, use the following link. [The American Yawp](#). *The American Yawp* is free online, if you choose to purchase a hard copy, cost ~ \$18.00 - \$35.00 via MSU Bookstore or ~ \$25.00 via [The American Yawp | Stanford University Press](#). Allison, Robert J. *The American Revolution: A Concise History*. (Oxford University Press, 2011). ISBN – 9780199752669. Cost ~ \$6.00 - \$10.00 via MSU Bookstore. Unlimited eBook copies are available via the Moffett Library at MSU. [The American Revolution : A Very Short Introduction - Record details - EBSCOhost Research Databases](#). Smith, F. Todd. *The Wichita Indians: Traders of Texas and the Southern Plains, 1540-1845*. (Texas A&M University Press, 2000). ISBN – 9780890969526. Cost ~ \$32.00 via MSU Bookstore. Price varies via other retailers. Unlimited eBook copies are available via the Moffett Library at MSU. [The Wichita Indians : traders of Texas and the Southern Plains, 1540-1845 - Record details - EBSCOhost Research Databases](#).

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](#).

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
Quizzes (12 at 10 pts each)	120	20%
In-Class Activities (Primary Source Analysis Assignments) (12 at 10 pts each)	120	20%
Book Review	100	17%
Midterm Exam	130	22%
Final Exam	130	22%
Total Points	600	

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	>540
B	480 to 539
C	420 to 479
D	360 to 419
F	Less than 360

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given to assess student completion and comprehension of the assigned readings and/or geography of historical topics. Students will take 13 quizzes during the semester. The 12 highest quiz grades will count toward the student's overall quiz grade for a total of 120 points. If a student misses class for an unexcused absence, they will not be allowed to make up a missed quiz. All quiz makeups must be done during office hours. Quizzes will account for 20% of the final grade. Quiz dates will appear on the Course Calendar.

In-Class Activities/Primary Source Analysis Assignments

Students will complete 12 in-class/primary source analysis assignments during the semester. Students will complete analysis activities related to primary sources provided by the professor. Students will evaluate and analyze the primary sources by identifying the author/creator; when and where the source was created; explanation of the source and its content; an explanation of the source's importance; and its relation to larger concurrent historical themes being discussed in the course. Each analysis assignment will be graded for 10 points possible for a total of 120 points. A rubric will be provided. These in-class assignments will account for 20% of the final grade.

Book Review

Students will complete one book review during the semester. Students will write one book review out of the required class readings. Students will read Robert

Allison's The American Revolution: A Concise History and F. Todd Smith's The Wichita Indians. Students will choose one of these books to write a 600-900 word review. Students should use course content to engage with the book in their response. A rubric and prompt will be provided by the professor. The review will be graded for a total of 100 points. The review will account for 17% of the final grade.

Mid-Term Exam

The Midterm Exam is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th during our normal class meeting. The midterm exam will consist of multiple-choice questions and one essay. It will count for a total of 130 points (22% of the Total Grade). The professor will provide a list of key terms and sample essay questions one week before the exam to help students prepare.

Final Exam

The Final Exam is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, identifications and one essay. It will count for a total of 130 points (22% of the Total Grade). The professor will provide a list of key terms and sample essay questions one week before the exam to help students prepare.

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.

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. Students who miss class for unexcused absences will not be allowed to make up missed assignments.

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. If a student misses an in-class assignment due to a university-excused absence, they will be allowed to complete an alternative assignment to receive credit.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Thursday, August 27, 2026.
- Deadline to file for December graduation: September 21, 2026.
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 23, 2026.
- 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 attend all meetings of the classes in a punctual manner. Students who are more than five minutes late should inform the professor of their tardiness and schedule a meeting with the professor during office hours to discuss missed course content. Students will not be allowed into the room if they are more than five minutes late.

Students should contribute to class discussions by offering fact-based thoughts on topics and readings being analyzed by the class. Students need to provide informed contributions to the class discussions that reflect insights related to topical discussions and assigned readings. The course activities and discussions are designed to help students better understand course material. These discussions will help you develop deeper understanding of the content covered in class.

You will not be able to pass this class if you do not attend class. It is in your best interest to attend class.

Online Computer Requirements

[Click here to edit text.](#) Taking an online 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!!*** 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 instructor 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](#).

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Instructor Class Policies

Attendance and tardiness: Students who are more than five minutes late will not be admitted into the classroom as it disrupts the learning environment. Due to the classroom layout, students entering late create an unnecessary disruption. If a student will be more than five minutes late, please meet with the professor during office hours to review course content that was covered during the scheduled class meeting.

Technology: Students are allowed to use laptops and tablets in the classroom to take notes or view PPT slides. However, if a student is seen completing non-course-related assignments or browsing non-course related websites or apps, they will be asked to leave. Students browsing non-course related websites create unnecessary learning disruptions for their peers seated around them. Students are paying for this class, and they are expected to pay attention. Those who fail to stay on course related content will be asked to put away technology. If they persist on browsing non-course related content or refuse to put away technology, they will be asked to leave the class.

Headphones: Students are paying to take this class, and, therefore, they are not permitted to wear headphones during class lectures or activities.

Class Disruptions: any student who deemed to be making an unnecessary distraction to the learning environment or their peer's ability to focus on course related activities will be asked to leave.

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 university 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 1133-106, Assigned Reading.**

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. *If your assignment/paper/quiz/or exam is flagged for completion via generative AI, you will earn 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 course 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. In particular, this course is designed to help you improve your critical reading comprehension and analytical skills, your written communication skills, and your ability to form arguments supported by historical evidence. Reliance on generative AI to complete course assignments will limit the growth and development of these skills which you will need for your academic and professional careers. Do not utilize generative AI as a crutch or as a substitute for developing your expertise.

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 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.

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	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1: 8/25 & 8/27 First Week of Classes	Topic: Syllabus Review / Emerging from the Ground & People and Fauna of North America Assigned Reading: <i>Yawp</i> , Ch. 1. Assignments Due: Quiz 1 in Class	Topic: Pre-1492 – Societies of the Americas / Indigenous Oral Traditions Assigned Reading: <i>Yawp</i> , Ch. 1, finish reading. Assignments Due: PSA 1 in Class

Week or Module	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 2: 9/1 – 9/3	Topic: The Age of Exploration and the Beginnings of Colonization Assigned Reading: Smith, <i>Wichita Indians</i>, Ch. 1. Begin <i>Yawp</i>, Ch. 2. Treaty of Tordesillas Assignments Due: PSA 2 in Class	Topic: Age of Exploration and Connecting the Continents Assigned Reading: Smith, <i>Wichita Indians</i>, Ch. 2; Finish <i>Yawp</i>, Ch. 2. Assignments Due: Quiz 2 in Class, PSA 2 in Class
Week 3: 9/8 – 9/10	Topic: Competing Colonization Efforts – Society, Competition and Tensions Assigned Reading: Smith, <i>Wichita Indians</i>, Ch. 3. Begin <i>Yawp</i>, Ch. 3. Assignments Due: Quiz 3 in Class	Topic: Evolving Mercantilism and the Expanding Atlantic Slave Trade Assigned Reading: Allison, <i>American Rev</i> Ch. 1 & 2; Finish <i>Yawp</i>, Ch. 3. Assignments Due: Quiz 4 and PSA 3 in Class
Week 4: 9/15 – 9/17	Topic: The First World Wars Assigned Reading: Smith, <i>Wichita Indians</i>, 4; Begin <i>Yawp</i>, Ch. 4. Assignments Due: Quiz 5 in Class	Topic: Reconfiguring and Reforming Empires Assigned Reading: Finish <i>Yawp</i>, Ch. 4. Assignments Due: PSA 4 in class
Week 5: 9/22 – 9/24	Topic: The Road to Revolution in the British Colonies Assigned Reading: Allison, <i>American Rev</i> Ch. 3; Begin <i>Yawp</i>, Ch. 5. Assignments Due: Quiz 6	Topic: The Revolution Begins Assigned Reading: Allison, <i>American Rev</i> Ch. 4; Finish <i>Yawp</i>, Ch. 5. Assignments Due: PSA 5 in class; Quiz 7 in class

Week or Module	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 6: 9/29 – 10/1	Topic: The Revolution Becomes a Global Conflict Assigned Reading: Begin <i>Yawp</i> Ch. 6. Assignments Due: PSA 6 and Quiz 8 in class	Topic: An Independent Nation – The Treaty of Paris 1783. Review for Midterm Exam. Assigned Reading: Finish <i>Yawp</i>, Ch.6. Assignments Due: N/A
Week 7: 10/6 – 10/8	Topic: Midterm Exam Assigned Reading: N/A Assignments Due: Midterm Exam in Class	Topic: No Synchronous Class Meeting – Work on Book Review of either Allison or Smith. Assigned Reading: N/A Assignments Due: N/A
Week 8: 10/13 – 10/15	Topic: The Articles of Confederation and the New Nation Assigned Reading: Read Allison, Chapter 5. Begin <i>Yawp</i> Ch. 7. Assignments Due: N/A	Topic: The Constitutional Convention and Ratification Debates Assigned Reading: Finish <i>Yawp</i> Ch. 7. Assignments Due: Quiz 9 in class
Week 9: 10/20 – 10/22	Topic: Washington's Presidency and Challenges to the New Nation Assigned Reading: <i>Yawp</i> Ch. 8. Assignments Due: PSA 6 in Class	Topic: No Synchronous Class. Please find instructions for an alternative assignment on D2L. Assigned Reading: <i>Yawp</i> Ch. 8. Read Smith, <i>Wichita Indians</i>, Chs. 5 & 6. Assignments Due: N/A

Week or Module	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 10: 10/27 – 10/29	Topic: Jefferson and the Louisiana Purchase Assigned Reading: <i>Yawp</i> Ch. 9. Assignments Due: Quiz 11 in class PSA 7 in Class	Topic: Latin American Revolutions Assigned Reading: <i>Yawp</i>, Ch. 9. Assignments Due: Quiz 12 in Class
Week 11: 11/3 – 11/5	Topic: The War of 1812 Assigned Reading: Smith, <i>Wichita Indians</i>, Ch. 7 & 8; <i>Yawp</i>, Ch. 10. Assignments Due: N/A	Topic: The Era of Good Feelings and the Rise of Jackson Assigned Reading: <i>Yawp</i>, Ch. 10. Assignments Due: Quiz 13; PSA 9 in class Book Review is due Sunday, (11/8) by 11:59pm.
Week 12: 11/10 – 11/12	Topic: Jackson's Presidency: Displacement and Democracy Assigned Reading: <i>Yawp</i>, Ch. 11 Assignments Due: PSA 10 in class	Topic: Texas Revolution, the Texas Republic, and the Election of 1844 Assigned Reading: <i>Yawp</i>, Ch. 11. Assignments Due: N/A
Week 13: 11/17 – 11/19	Topic: The Mexican-American War, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and the Compromise of 1850 Assigned Reading: <i>Yawp</i>, Ch. 12. Assignments Due: PSA 11 in class	Topic: The Road to Secession Assigned Reading: <i>Yawp</i> Ch. 12. Submit Book Review by 4/19 at 11:59pm Assignments Due: PSA 12 in Class

Week or Module	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 14: 11/24 Thanksgiving Week	Topic: The Civil War Begins Assigned Reading: <i>Yawp</i> Ch. 13 Assignments Due: N/A	Topic: No Class Thanksgiving Assigned Reading: Assignments Due: N/A
Week 15: 12/1 – 12/3	Topic: The Changing Nature of War and Union Momentum Assigned Reading: Finish Ch. 13 in <i>Yawp</i> . Assignments Due: Quiz 14 in Class	Topic: Union Victory and the End of the Civil War / Final Exam Review Assigned Reading: N/A Assignments Due: N/A
Week 16: 12/7 – 12/10 Finals Week	Topic: Final Exam is Tuesday at 1:00pm. Assigned Reading: N/A Assignments Due: Final Exam at 1:00pm.	Topic: N/A Assigned Reading: N/A Assignments Due: N/A