



Course Syllabus: Survey of American History to 1865

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

HIST 1133 Section x11

Fall 2026 – Asynchronous Online

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](#).

Communication Preference: 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.

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. [*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, 2026). **(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.

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 (do not use it to rewrite your paper, part of this course aims to help you improve your vocabulary and argumentation when writing), 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. You should complete course assignments through your own capabilities. If assignments are flagged for generative AI, you will earn an F. Do your own work.

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.

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
Quizzes (14 at ~ 15 pts each)	205
Primary Source Analysis Assignments (13 at 15 points each)	130
Book Review	100
Midterm Exam	125
Final Exam	150
Total Points	710

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	639
B	568 to 638
C	497 to 567
D	426 to 496
F	Less than 425

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given to assess student completion and comprehension of the assigned readings. Students will take 14 quizzes during the semester for a total of 205 points. Quizzes will assess student comprehension of assigned textbook and monograph chapters. The quiz instructions on the weekly module will indicate the textbook chapter and assigned reading content that is being assessed on the quiz. In total, the quizzes will account for 29% of the final grade. Each quiz will be due on Sunday nights by 11:59pm for the week that they are assigned. Students should read the assigned textbook chapter before taking the quiz to familiarize themselves with chapter's content. Students will have 45 minutes to complete the quiz once it is opened. Quizzes will consist of 3 discussion questions. Students must answer each question with a response that is at least 100 words in length. Effective responses will incorporate evidence from the textbook and/or monographs and cite the page numbers or chapter and section numbers in parentheses after the sentence. [For example, "this is a quote from the textbook." (Yawp, pg. 2) or (Yawp, Ch. 3, sect. III)]. A rubric is included in the Important Documents Module. ***Note: all quizzes will be due on Sundays except the Chapter 13 Quiz. This will be due on Friday, December 4th due to Finals Week.**

Primary Source Analysis Assignments

Students will complete thirteen primary document analysis assignments during the semester. Students will choose one primary source from the link connected to the [Yawp Chapter Primary Reader](#). 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 130 points. These assignments will account for 18% of the final grade. Primary Source Analysis Assignments will always be due on Sundays by 11:59pm on the week that they are assigned. Students should utilize the template provided in the Important Documents Module on D2L. I recommend downloading the template for use in completing the PSAs. Students may choose any of the primary sources listed in the module to complete the Primary Source Guide. A rubric is included in the Important Documents Module. ***All Primary Source Analysis Assignments will be on Sundays except PSA 14. PSA 14 will be due on Friday, May 8th due to Finals Week.**

Book Review

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 to 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. These reviews will account for 14% of the final grade. ***The Review is due by Sunday, November 8th at 11:59pm.**

Mid-Term Exam

The midterm exam is due Sunday, October 11th by 11:59pm. The exam will be graded out of a total of 125 points. The exam will have 6 discussion questions and you must answer each of them. Similar to the quizzes, students must answer each question with a response of at least 100 words. Responses should incorporate evidence from the textbook to support your arguments, remember to cite the page number or chapter and section from which the information is pulled taken. 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 it is started. This exam will account for 18% 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.

Final Exam

***The Final Exam must be completed by Wednesday, December 9th at 11:59pm.** The final exam will consist of 7 discussion questions. Students must answer each question with a response of at least 100 words. Responses should incorporate evidence from the textbook to support your arguments, remember to cite the page number or chapter and section information from which the information is taken. The professor will provide a list of key terms at least one

week before the exam to help students prepare. The Final Exam will only assess content following the Midterm Exam. It will count for a total of 150 points (21% 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 as you only have one attempt to complete the 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

If a student misses a test window due to an excused absence or extenuating circumstance, the professor will allow the student to make up an exam. The makeup exam will consist of two to three essay questions based on course content. If a student misses an exam window for an unexcused absence, the student will not be allowed to make up the exam.

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. 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, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

As this course is an asynchronous online course, attendance will not be taken. You will complete the course at your own pace. Please be mindful of assignment due dates that are located within each module. You should plan to spend at least three to five hours per week working on course assignments.

Online Computer Requirements

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

Please use professional etiquette and language when communicating with the professor and peers in the course. You should establish regular routines of drafting and revising emails to ensure that you use professional verbiage and courtesy in your emails.

If a student demonstrates unethical or unprofessional behavior, the professor reserves the right to remove the student from the course.

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

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:

This calendar includes dates for assignments and readings. Please adhere to this calendar unless otherwise noted by the professor. Any changes will be clearly communicated through both email and D2L.

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates (All assignments due by 11:59pm)
Week 1: 8/24 to 8/30	Begin Module 1. Take Syllabus quiz by 9/6. Modules 1 and 2 will be due next week. Please begin working ahead to complete them. Theme: Indigenous America and the Formation of an Interconnected Atlantic World. Read Chapters 1 & 2 in <i>The American Yawp</i> .	N/A
Week 2: 8/31 to 9/6	Modules 1 and 2 are due this week. Theme: Indigenous America and the Formation of an Interconnected Atlantic World. Read Chapters 1 & 2 in <i>The American Yawp</i> . Read Chapters 1 & 2 in <i>The Wichita Indians</i> .	Syllabus Quiz – 9/6 Ch. 1 Quiz – 9/6 PSA 1 – 9/6 Ch. 2 Quiz – 9/6 PSA 2 – 9/6
Week 3: 9/7 to 9/13	Module 3 is due this week. Theme: Colliding Cultures – Accommodations, Competition, and Transformation. Read Chapter Three in <i>The American Yawp</i> . Read Chapter Three in <i>The Wichita Indians</i> .	Ch. 3 quiz – 9/13 PSA 3 – 9/13
Week 4: 9/14 to 9/20	Module 4 is due this week. Theme – British North American: the Colonies, their formation, and governance. Read Chapter Four in <i>The American Yawp</i> . Read Chapters 1 & 2 in <i>The American Revolution</i> .	Ch. 4 quiz – 9/20 PSA 4 – 9/20
Week 5: 9/21 to 9/27	Module 5 is due this week. Theme – Colonial Society: the Consumer Revolution and Imperial Competition. Read Chapter Five in <i>The American Yawp</i> . Read Chapter Four in <i>The Wichita Indians</i> .	Ch. 5 quiz – 9/27 PSA 5 – 9/27
Week 6: 9/28 to 10/4	Module 6 is due this week. Theme – the American Revolution: Winning Independence. Read Chapter Six in <i>The American Yawp</i> . Read Chapters 3 & 4 in <i>The American Revolution</i> .	Ch. 6 quiz – 10/4 PSA 6 – 10/4
Week 7: 10/5 to 10/11	Midterm Exam is due this week. Exam will evaluate content from Chapters 1 through 6 in <i>The American Yawp</i> .	Midterm – 10/11

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Dates (All assignments due by 11:59pm)
Week 8: 10/12 to 10/18	Module 7 is due this week. Theme – The New Nation: Challenges, the Articles, and the Constitution. Read Chapter Five in <i>The American Yawp</i> .	Ch. 7 quiz – 10/18 PSA 7 – 10/18
Week 9: 10/19 to 10/25	Module 8 is due this week. Theme – The Early Republic: The Age of Jefferson. Read Chapter Eight in <i>The American Yawp</i> . Read Chapters Five, Six, and Seven in <i>The Wichita Indians</i> .	Ch. 8 quiz – 10/25 PSA 8 – 10/25
Week 10: 10/26 to 11/1	Module 9 is due this week. Theme – The Market Revolution, Second Great Awakening, and the Limits of Democracy. Read Chapter Nine in <i>The American Yawp</i> . Read Chapter Eight in <i>The Wichita Indians</i> .	Ch. 9 quiz – 11/1 PSA 9 – 11/1
Week 11: 11/2 to 11/8	Module 10 and Book Review are due this week. Theme – American Democracy: the Jacksonian Presidency, Reform Movements, Indian Removal, and the Expansion of Slavery. Read Chapter Ten in <i>The American Yawp</i> . Please submit your review of either <i>The Wichita Indians</i> or <i>The American Revolution</i> this week.	Ch. 10 quiz – 11/8 PSA 10 – 11/8 Book Review – 11/8
Week 12: 11/9 to 11/15	Module 11 is due this week. Theme – Antebellum America: Western Expansion and the U.S.-Mexican War. Read Chapter Eleven in <i>The American Yawp</i> .	Ch. 11 quiz – 11/15 PSA 11 – 11/15
Week 13: 11/16 to 11/22	Module 12 is due this week. Theme – The 1850s and the Road to Secession. Read Chapter Twelve in <i>The American Yawp</i> .	Ch. 12 quiz – 11/22 PSA 12 – 11/22
Week 14: 11/23 to 11/29	Thanksgiving Break, no due dates	N/A
Week 15: 11/30 to 12/6	Module 13 is due this week. Theme – The American Civil War: Re-forging the Nation. Read Chapter Thirteen in <i>The American Yawp</i> .	Ch. 13 quiz – 12/4 PSA 13 – 12/4
Week 16: 12/7 to 12/10	Final Exam is due this week. Final Exam is open from 11/30 to 12/9.	Final Exam – 12/9

