



Course Syllabus: Survey of American History to 1865

HIST 1133 Section x20/x21

Spring 2026

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.

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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-x20/x21, 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 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, 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](#). *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](#).

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. ***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.

Grading

Assignments	Points
Quizzes (15 at 10 pts each)	150
Primary Source Analysis Assignments (14 at 10 pts each)	140
Book Review	100
Midterm Exam	125
Final Exam	125
Total Points	640

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	> 576
B	512-575
C	448-511
D	384-447
F	< 383

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 and monograph chapters. The quiz instructions on the weekly module will indicate what content is being assessed on the quiz. In total, the quizzes will account for 23% of the final grade. Each quiz will be due by Sunday at 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 40 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 125 words in length. Effective responses will incorporate evidence from the textbook and monographs and cite the page numbers in parentheses after the sentence. [For example, "this is a quote from the textbook." (*Yawp*, pg. 2)]. A rubric is included in the Important Documents Module. ***Note: all quizzes will be due on Sundays except the Chapter 14 Quiz. This will be due on Friday, May 8th due to Finals Week.**

Primary Source Analysis Assignments

Students will complete fourteen 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 140 points. These assignments will account for 22% 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.**

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam is due Sunday, March 8th 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 5 of them. Similar to the quizzes, students must answer each question with a response of at least 125 words. Responses should incorporate evidence from the textbook to support your arguments, remember to cite the page number from which the information is pulled from. 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. This exam will account for 20% 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 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 17% of the final grade. ***The Review is due by Sunday, April 12th at 11:59pm.**

Final Exam

***The Final Exam must be completed by Wednesday, May 13th at 11:59pm.** The final exam will consist of 6 discussion questions. Students must answer each question with a response of at least 125 words. Responses should incorporate evidence from the textbook to support your arguments, remember to cite the page number from which the information is pulled from. 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 125 points (20% 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: January 20, 2026. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: February 16, 2026. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of “W:” April 29, 2026. [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: Friday, May 8, 2026.

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: 1/20 – 1/25 Topic: Course Introduction/Syllabus Review/ North America Pre-1492 and European Contact with Native America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review Course Syllabus - Take Quiz – Syllabus Review (10 Questions Related to Information found on Syllabus) - Read Chapter 1, “The New World,” in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 1 Quiz. - Review Primary Sources in Module 1 and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for 1 primary source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Syllabus Quiz – Sunday (1/25) by 11:59pm. *Take Before Completing other Assignments! - Chapter 1 Quiz – Sunday (1/25) by 11:59pm. - Primary Source Analysis 1 – Sunday (1/25) by 11:59pm
Module 2: 1/26 – 2/1 Topic: Colliding European and Native American Cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 2, “Colliding Cultures,” in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 2 Quiz. - Review Primary Sources in Module 2 and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for one primary source. - Read Chapter 1 and 2 in Smith, <i>Wichita Indians</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 2 Quiz – Sunday (2/1) by 11:59pm. - Primary Source Analysis 2 – Sunday (2/1) by 11:59pm.

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Module 3: 2/2 – 2/8 Topic: British North America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 3, “British North America,” in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 3 Quiz. - Review Primary Sources in Module 3 and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for one primary source. - Read Chapter 3 in Smith, <i>Wichita Indians</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 3 Quiz – Sunday (2/8) by 11:59pm. - Primary Source Analysis 3 – Sunday (2/8) by 11:59pm.
Module 4: 2/9 – 2/15 Topic: Colonial Society and Imperial Competition in the 18 th Century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 4, “Colonial Society,” in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 4 Quiz. - Review Primary Sources in Module 4 and complete a complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for one primary source. - Read Chapter 1 and 2 in Allison, <i>The American Revolution</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 4 Quiz – Sunday (2/15) by 11:59pm. - Primary Source Analysis 4 – Sunday (2/15) by 11:59pm.
Module 5: 2/16 – 2/22 Topic: The American Revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 5, “The American Revolution,” in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 5 Quiz. - Review Primary Sources in Module 5 and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for one primary source. - Read Chapter 3 and 4 in Allison, <i>The American Revolution</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 5 Quiz – Sunday (2/22) by 11:59pm. - Primary Source Analysis 5 – Sunday (2/22) by 11:59pm.
Module 6: 2/23 – 3/1 Topic: A New Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 6, “A New Nation,” in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 6 Quiz. - Review Primary Sources in Module 6 and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for one primary source. - Read Chapter 5 in Allison, <i>The American Revolution</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 6 Quiz – Sunday (3/1) by 11:59pm. - Primary Source Analysis 6 – Sunday (3/1) by 11:59pm.
Module 7: 3/2 – 3/8 Topic: Midterm Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review key terms list provided in Module 7. - Take Midterm Exam by Sunday (3/8) by 11:59pm. - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Midterm Exam is due Sunday (3/8) by 11:59pm.
Spring Break: 3/9 – 3/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spring Break – No Assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spring Break – No Assignments

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Module 8: 3/16 – 3/22 Topic: The Early Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 7, “The Early Republic,” in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 7 Quiz. - Review Primary Sources in module and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for one primary source. - Read Chapter 4 and 5 in Smith, <i>Wichita Indians</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 7 Quiz – Sunday (3/22) by 11:59pm. - PSA 7 – Sunday (3/22) by 11:59pm.
Module 9: 3/23 – 3/29 Topic: The Market Revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 8, “The Market Revolution,” in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 8 Quiz. - Review Primary Sources in module and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for one primary source. - Read Chapter 6 and 7 in Smith, <i>Wichita Indians</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 8 Quiz – Sunday (3/29) by 11:59pm. - PSA 8 – Sunday (3/29) by 11:59pm.
Module 10: 3/30 – 4/5 Topic: Democracy in America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 9, “Democracy in America,” in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 9 Quiz. - Review Primary Sources in the weekly module and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for one primary source. - Read Chapter 8 in Smith, <i>Wichita Indians</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 9 Quiz – Sunday (4/5) by 11:59pm - PSA 9 – Sunday (4/5) by 11:59pm.
Module 11: 4/6 – 4/12 Topic: Religion and Reform in the mid-19 th Century United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 10, “Religion and Reform,” in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 10 Quiz. - Review Primary Sources in the weekly module and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for one primary source. - Book Review of either Allison, <i>The American Revolution</i> or Smith, <i>Wichita Indians</i> is due by Sunday, April 12 by 11:59pm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 10 Quiz – Sunday (4/12) by 11:59pm. - PSA 10 – Sunday (4/12) by 11:59pm. - Book Review – Sunday (4/12) by 11:59pm.
Module 12: 4/13 – 4/19 Topic: The Cotton Revolution in the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 11, “The Cotton Revolution,” in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 11 Quiz. - Review Primary Sources in the weekly module and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for one primary source. - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 11 Quiz – Sunday (4/19) by 11:59pm. - PSA 11 – Sunday (4/19) by 11:59pm.

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Module 13: 4/20 – 4/26 Topic: Manifest Destiny and American Expansion during the 19 th Century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 12, “Manifest Destiny,” in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 12 Quiz. - Review Primary Sources in the weekly module and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for one primary source. - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 12 Quiz – Sunday (4/26) by 11:59pm. - PSA 12 – Sunday (4/26) by 11:59pm.
Module 14: 4/27 – 5/3 Topic: The Sectional Crisis and Increasing Cultural Tensions in the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 13, “The Sectional Crisis,” in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 13 Quiz. - Review Primary Sources in the weekly module and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for one primary source. - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 13 Quiz – Sunday (5/3) by 11:59pm. - PSA 13 – Sunday (5/3) by 11:59pm.
Module 15: 5/4 – 5/8 Topic: The Civil War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read Chapter 14, “The Civil War,” in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 14 Quiz. - Review Primary Sources in the weekly module and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for one primary source. - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chapter 14 Quiz – Friday (5/8) by 11:59pm. - PSA 14 – Friday (5/8) by 11:59pm.
Module 16: 5/9 – 5/14 Topic: Finals Week and Final Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Exam must be completed and submitted by Wednesday, May 13 by 11:59pm. - The Final Exam will cover material from Chapters 7-14 in <i>The American Yawp</i>. It will not cover any content from material related to the Midterm Exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Exam is due Wednesday, May 13 by 11:59pm.