



Course Syllabus: American History to 1865
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Fall 2025

Contact Information

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Course Description

This course examines the history of colonial America and the United States to the end of the Civil War. It seeks to understand how a small group from a distant European empire became an independent nation founded on representative democracy, slavery, and capitalism. Nothing about this story is inevitable. We will start by looking at the continent before the arrival of Europeans and conclude with the end of slavery and civil warfare. Along the way, we will situate the peoples of the North American continent within a collection of international players, examine the American Revolution as part of the Age of Revolutions, and study the development of the American republic as a product of nation-building.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Locke, Joseph L., and Ben Wright. *The American Yawp: A massively collaborative open U.S. history textbook. vol. 1. to 1887*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2023.

Link to Online textbook: [American Yawp](#)

Reading Quizzes

Throughout the semester, you will be expected to take 10 quizzes that will cover information from the book. The dates of these quizzes can be found on the course schedule. These quizzes will consist of 5 multiple choice questions at 1 point each. ***Your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.**

Primary Source Analysis

You will be expected to write three Primary Source analyses this semester over sources from the [American Yawp Reader](#). To do so, we will be utilizing Perusall, which can be found in D2L. Each Primary source should be one page long. An example of how these should look will be provided.

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading

Assignments	Points
Quizzes (8 at 5 pts each)	40
Primary Source Analysis (3 at 20 pts each)	60
Attendance	40
Midterm Exam	60
Final Exam	100
Total Points	300

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	300 to 270
B	269 to 240
C	239 to 210
D	209 to 180
F	179 and below

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 and Class Policies

You are expected to attend all class meetings. If you are travelling on the day of class to an athletic or university event, please let me know in advance and provide proper documentation. I will periodically take attendance in class. Be attentive and engaged. This means taking notes, asking questions, and remaining alert during class time.

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](#).

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

Week	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 08/25 to 08/29	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch.1: “Indigenous America”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 2— <u>NO CLASS MONDAY</u> 09/03 to 09/05	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 2: “Colliding Cultures,” Reading Quiz	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 3 09/08 to 09/12	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 3: “British North America,”	Primary Source Analysis due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 4 09/15 to 09/19	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 4: “Colonial Society,”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 5 09/22 to 09/26	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 5: “The American Revolution”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 6 09/29 to 10/03	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 6: “A New Nation,”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 7 10/06 to 10/10	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 7: “The Early Republic,” Midterm Exam on Friday	Exam on Friday during class
Week 8 10/13 to 10/17	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 8: “The Market Revolution,”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 9 10/20 to 10/24	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 9: “Democracy in America,”	Primary Source Analysis due Friday by 11:59pm
Week 10 10/27 to 10/31	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 10: “Religion and Reform,”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 11 11/03 to 11/07	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 11: “The Cotton Revolution,”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 12 11/10 to 11/14	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 12: “Manifest Destiny,”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 13 11/17 to 11/21	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 13: “The Sectional Crisis,”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 14	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Week 15 12/01 to 12/05	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 14: “The Civil War,”	Primary Source Analysis due Friday by 11:59pm