



Survey of United States History Since 1865  
**Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
HIST 1233.205: A Survey of U.S. History Since 1865

**Contact Information**

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 11 to 12:30, Wednesday 10 to 1  
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**Course Description**

A General Survey of American History from 1865 to present. Required of all baccalaureate students.

This is an introductory survey of United States history from the Reconstruction years through the twentieth century. The goal is to provide a basic knowledge of United States history during its rise to modernity and world power and the role of the U.S. as a global superpower. The focus of the course is the various political, social, cultural, and economic themes essential to understanding the development of the United States as a nation, people, and society. Major themes include the evolution of cultural expectations and social priorities and the developing relationship between the people, the respective states, and the federal government. A primary element of the course is the growth of critical thinking among students concerning the examination of historical themes and paradigms (examples, patterns, models, and standards).

**Student Participation Clause**

Students in this course are held personally responsible for their own education and encouraged to excel. Active student participation in learning [which is, at the very least, accomplished through the careful reading of all assignments, the maintenance of a weekly study schedule, the completion of all assignments in a timely manner, adequate and earnest preparation for exams, and, when necessary, individual post-exam consultation with the instructor] is essential to the successful accomplishment of all expected learning outcomes.

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

Text: Schaller, et al. *American Horizons: U.S. History in a Global Context*. Vol II, 4th edition. (Oxford University Press) ISBN: **978-0-19-751892-2**

Online Readings: As assigned

## Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and appreciate differences and commonalities between domestic cultures, economic opportunities, and political motivations.

*Assessment Methodology:* Factual, analytical, conceptual, and interpretive, multiple choice quizzes and exams which include short answer responses that represent an understanding of various political, social, cultural, and economic themes and movements essential to understanding the development of the United States

2. Demonstrate knowledge of the origins and evolution of U.S. society, cultural institutions, political systems, and economic policies and practices.

*Assessment Methodology:* Factual, analytical, conceptual, and interpretive, multiple choice quizzes and exams, summary essays, and analytical essays.

3. Identify and critique historical and alternative explanations for interpretations and analyses of social issues and human behavior in modern United States history.

*Assessment Methodology:* Response essays and primary source analysis essays.

4. Understand and be able to cogently discuss major trends and themes in modern United States history.

*Assessment Methodology:* A comprehensive final-exam essay that demands a critical and detailed understanding of, readings, lectures, and the student's own research findings.

### Textbook Quiz Assistance

Your textbook publisher, Oxford University Press, provides a student assistance website located at the following link:

[https://learninglink.oup.com/access/schaller4e-volume-2-student-resources#tag\\_welcome-material](https://learninglink.oup.com/access/schaller4e-volume-2-student-resources#tag_welcome-material)

### Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2020-21](#)

### Academic Integrity, 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](#)

**Notice:** Please understand the following – it applies to all assignments: quizzes, exams, and essays. If you in any instance “cut and paste” from any internet source without citing that source (that is plagiarism) or use unapproved internet sources you will fail the assignment in question and depending on the severity of the cheating or plagiarism the professor reserves the right to employ any or all university sanctioned disciplinary actions.

## Grading

Assignments	Percentage
Textbook Quizzes	25%
Primary Source Analyses	15%
PowerPoint Exams	20%
Mid-Term Essay	15%
Global Passages Essays	10%
Final Research Project	15%

Final Grade	Percentage
A	90% plus
B	80 – 89.9%
C	70 – 79.9%
D	60 – 69.9%
F	Less than 60%

### Final Research Essay

Your final research project will result in a Response Paper in which you search out the relevant sources. You may use articles found online, in the library, passages from books, or your textbook. Nonetheless you must find, and include in your “works cited,” at least THREE sources not associated with class assignments such as Global Passages and textbook readings. Details are posted to D2L Content and the Final Essay Dropbox. It is worth 15% of your overall grade. A critical analysis rubric will be employed and provided to the student.

### Extra Credit

Under no circumstances are “extra credit” assignments given to individual students. Such assignments are inherently unfair to your fellow students. Please do not request “extra credit.” However, bonus points are available on several assignments. Students are encouraged to take advantage of all bonus opportunities.

### Make-Up Assignments

Such make-up work is given only if the professor determines that the student has a legitimate reason for having missed the scheduled assignment and only on prescribed dates set by the instructor. The qualifications concerning the make-up exams are as follows:

A student must have a documented reason for missing an exam in order to be eligible for a make-up assignment. To be eligible a student must present documentation of participation in an official, university-sanctioned event or documentation of an *emergency* medical event.

Any and all make-ups must be scheduled and completed on the arranged or scheduled make-up day. A make-up exam or classroom quiz may not be the same as the scheduled exam or quiz. The professor reserves the right to administer essay-only make-up exams. This policy is not negotiable and will be in force no matter the nature of your absence from an exam or quiz.

Online quizzes are not subject to the course make-up policy. Quizzes are open for a period of time sufficient for the student to complete the quiz before the due date.

### **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**

Attendance in this online course is accomplished through the observation of all online assignment deadlines and active participation in online discussions. Missed assignments are excused only when a student is attending an official university-sanctioned event or a missed assignment is specifically exempted through university policy.

This course is structured so that it is to the student's advantage to participate in online lectures and discussion groups. From past experience, those students who choose not to participate on a regular basis have not been successful.

Relevant terminology, from which many factual questions are derived, and major themes from which interpretive and analytical questions are derived, are presented and discussed in online lectures and assigned readings. Information from your text and supplemental readings are relevant but are typically not sufficient to produce well-conceived analytical and interpretive responses.

Material relevant to the identification and critique of major historical themes and trends and the alternative explanations for such interpretations of social issues and human behavior is presented in online lectures and analyzed in online discussion forums.

### **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, but do understand that your professor is a specialist in History not information technology. If you have technical difficulties in the course, immediately contact the student helpdesk. 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**

Conduct: All students are expected to act as responsible adults in online discussion forums, and in all course related communication. Any and all undue disruptions or distractions will be

dealt with in an appropriate manner. As a general rule any behavior that disrupts the administration of this online classroom will not be tolerated.

E-Mail: Please note that e-mail correspondence is the most effective, efficient, reliable, and convenient way in which to communicate with your professor outside of the classroom. The professor/student relationship is professional by nature and, accordingly, your e-mail correspondence should be constructed professionally.

Withdrawals (Course Drop): The professor is NOT responsible for student withdrawals. The student is responsible for meeting all academic deadlines – withdrawal deadlines included.

### **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 [Student Disability Office](#).

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

### **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 MSU TEXAS. 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.

### **Notice**

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