



**Course Syllabus: American History Since 1865**  
**College of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Spring 2026**

**Contact Information**

Rachel Patterson

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**Course Description**

This course will present a chronological history of United States after Reconstruction. This course will analyze the political, social, and cultural history of the nation, using individual stories as starting points to explore the broader themes of the American past. Students will use the lecture material and the readings to ask difficult questions, among them: What ideas and peoples “made” the United States? How has this changed over time? Throughout this course, we will focus on major worldwide events such as the World Wars, The Space Race, the Vietnam War, etc. as well as focusing on politics, events, and society in the United States to give students the best understanding about how the United States came to be the global superpower that it is today.

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

Locke, Joseph L., and Ben Wright. *The American Yawp: A massively collaborative open U.S. history textbook. vol.2. Since 1887*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2019.

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

*\*This class will not be covering and will not be assessed on the entirety of the textbook*

**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.**

**Exams**

You will take **two exams** during the semester. Each exam will consist of 2 essays. Before each exam you will receive a series of possible questions that you should spend time researching/preparing. You will be required to answer the essay questions in at least five paragraphs. We will go over this more as we get closer to the midterm and the final exam.

### 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 Perusal, 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 (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.

The use of AI (including ChatGPT) will not be tolerated.

[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 01/21 to 01/23	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch.1: “Capital and Labor”	Syllabus Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 2 01/26 to 01/30	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 2: “The West”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 3 02/02 to 02/06	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 3: “Life in Industrial America”	Primary Source Analysis due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 4 02/09 to 02/13	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 4: “American Empire”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 5 02/16 to 02/20	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 5: “The Progressive Era”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 6 02/23 to 02/27	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 6: “World War I and Its Aftermath”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 7 03/02 to 03/06	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 7: “The New Era,” <b>Midterm Exam on Friday</b>	<b>Exam on Friday during class</b>
Week 8 03/09 to 03/13	<b>Spring Break</b>	No Assignments due
Week 9 03/16 to 03/20	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 9: “The Great Depression”	Primary Source Analysis due Friday by 11:59pm
Week 10 03/23 to 03/27	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 10: “World War II”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 11 03/30 to 04/03	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 11: “The Cold War,” <b>NO CLASS FRIDAY</b>	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 12 04/06 to 04/10	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 12: “The Affluent Society”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 13 04/13 to 04/17	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 13: “The Sixties”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 14 04/20 to 04/24	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 13 “The Unravelling”	Reading Quiz due Friday by 11:59 pm
Week 15 04/27 to 05/01	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 14: “The Triumph of the Right”	Primary Source Analysis due Friday by 11:59pm
Week 16 05/04 to 05/08	Read <i>American Yawp</i> , Ch. 15: “The Recent Past”	