

# Course Syllabus: American History to 1865

Department of History

## College of Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences

# HIST 1133-1H1 (Honors)

MWF: 8:00-8:50 A.M., PY 202

# Fall 2019

## **Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Whitney Snow

Office: OD 223

Office hours: TR: 8:00-11:00 A.M; 12:00-2:00 P.M.; and by appointment

## Office phone: (940) 397-8917

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## **Course Description**

The instructor has designed this course first and foremost with the intention of providing her students with a basic understanding of the themes and events that dominated the American past to Reconstruction. For obvious reasons, she has not designed the course to be in anyway comprehensive, but rather foundational. It is a course from which further exploration of this nation’s history may be launched. As an honors course, it will provide more in-depth study than the average survey. In addition to providing students with a broad knowledge of US History, the course will help students critically analyze historical events. The course design also includes interpretive techniques in an effort to help students better understand what it is that historians do.

## **Textbooks**

## Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History*, 5th ed., vol. 1

## **Student Handbook**

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](https://mwsu.edu/Assets/documents/student-life/student-handbook-2017-18.pdf)

## **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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual’s to whom credit is given).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.

## **Grading**

| Assignments | Points |
| --- | --- |
| Writing Assignment #1 | 15% |
| Writing Assignment #2 | 15% |
| Movie Critique #1 | 7.5% |
| Movie Critique #2 | 7.5% |
| Group Project | 15% |
| Midterm | 20% |
| Final | 20% |

| Grade | Points |
| --- | --- |
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | 0-59 |

## **Exams**

\*This course includes two exams (a midterm and a final), both of which will consist of 6 identification terms and 1 essay.

\*Students are expected to bring a bluebook for each exam. Failure to do so will result in a letter grade off.

\*Study guides will be posted on D2L.

## **Writing Assignments**

\*Students will be expected to write two in-class writing assignments in which they write an essay on one of three questions on the board. A rubric with detailed guidelines is posted on D2L.

\*Students are expected to bring a bluebook for each writing assignment. Failure to do so will result in a letter grade off.

**Movie Critiques**

\*Students are expected to write two movie critiques chosen from an instructor-approved list. Each movie critique must be typed, in 12-point font, and double-spaced. The margins should be 1 inch on the top and bottom and 1.25 on the left and right. Print and staple. Failure to staple will result in a 5-point deduction.

**Group Project**

\*In groups of two, students will research a specific event, individual, or trend in early American history. Groups will select from a list of options post on D2L.

\* Each group will write a 7-10-page paper, and present their findings to the class at the end of the semester. The paper is worth 7.5% of your final grade while the presentation is also worth 7.5%.

\*Groups must also submit a bibliography containing the primary and secondary sources they consulted in order to complete this project. This bibliography must contain at least 10 sources. At least five of these sources MUST be university-press published books. Information about various types of primary and secondary sources and how to cite said sources will be posted on D2L.

\*If groups resort to internet sources, avoid websites like Wikipedia.com; History.com; and Biography.com. Using such sources shows a lack of effort.

\*While not a requirement, groups are encouraged to submit their project for presentation at the *Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum* on November 21, 2019.

## **Extra Credit**

No extra credit assignments will be accepted, but bonus points may be offered for attending specified speaker events on campus.

## **Make Up Work/Tests**

Students who miss class due to university-related activities will be able to make up exams and writing assignments. In cases of a doctor’s excuse and/or a family death, other students will also be able to make up exams and writing assignments.

**Office Hours**

If the door is closed during the instructor’s appointed office hours, it doesn’t mean she is not inside. Just knock! If the instructor steps out for any reason, she will place a post-it note on the door. It will indicate an estimated time of return.

**Email**

\*Please send all emails to my email address: [whitney.snow@msutexas.edu](mailto:whitney.snow@msutexas.edu); emails sent to this address will be answered

\*Do **NOT** send emails through D2L; they will not be answered

## **Important Dates**

Last day for term schedule changes:August 26-28

Deadline to file for graduation: September 30

Last Day to drop with a grade of “W:” October 28

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](https://mwsu.edu/student-life/development/learning/index)

**Midterm Progress Report**

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student’s WebWorld account. All students will receive this midterm progress report. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students’ transcript, nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with the instructor.

## **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](https://d2l.mwsu.edu/) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

## **Attendance**

\*Attendance is expected and will be taken into consideration if a student is close between letter grades. Official university absences will be excused.

\*The instructor will not give out notes under any circumstances. Students are responsible for all missed information.

## **Instructor Class Policies**

\*Attendance requires more than being present in class. It means showing up prepared; contributing to class discussions; and exhibiting respect for classmates and the instructor.

\*Cell phones should be on silent and put away during class.

\*Smart watches are not allowed in class on days of writing assignments or exams.

\*Earbuds and headphones will not be tolerated.

\*Laptops are a privilege and not a right. Students are welcome to use laptops to take notes. However, if they are seen using the laptop for a non-class-related purpose, students will be given a verbal warning. Repeat offenders are no longer welcome to bring a laptop to class.

## **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 a100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classeseach 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 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 [Disabilty Support Services](http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/disability).

## **College Policies**

### **Campus Carry Rules/Policies**

### Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](https://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-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.

## **Grade Appeal Process**

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](http://catalog.mwsu.edu/content.php?catoid=14&navoid=655#Appeal_of_Course_Grade)

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

## **Course Schedule \*All writing assignments and the midterm will be on Wednesdays**

| Week or Module | Readings and other Assignments |
| --- | --- |
| **Week 1**  August 26  August 28  August 30 | Foner, Chapter 1 |
| **Week 2**  September 2  September 4  September 6 | Foner, Chapter 2  **\*Labor Day**  **\*Project Topics Due (1-page prospectus)** |
| **Week 3**  September 9  September 11  September 13 | Foner, Chapter 3  **\*Film Critique #1 Due** |
| **Week 4**  September 16  September 18  September 20 | Foner, Chapter 4  **\*Project Update Due (with working bibliography)** |
| **Week 5**  September 23  September 25  September 27 | Foner, Chapter 5  **\*Writing Assignment #1** |
| **Week 6**  September 30  October 2  October 4 | Foner, Chapter 6  *Midterm Progress Report* |
| **Week 7**  October 7  October 9  October 11 | Foner, Chapter 7 |
| **Week 8**  October 14  October 16  October 18 | Foner, Chapter 8  **\*Midterm** |
| **Week 9**  October 21  October 23  October 25 | Foner, Chapter 9 |
| **Week 10**  October 28  October 30  November 1 | Foner, Chapter 10  **\*First Draft of Project Paper Due** |
| **Week 11**  November 4  November 6  November 8 | Foner, Chapter 11  **\*Writing Assignment #2** |
| **Week 12**  November 11  November 13  November 15 | Foner, Chapter 12 |
| **Week 13**  November 18  November 20  November 22 | Foner, Chapter 13  **\*Film Critique #2 Due** |
| **Week 14**  November 25  November 27  November 29 | Foner, Chapter 14  **\*Thanksgiving Break**  **\*Thanksgiving Break** |
| **Week 15**  December 2  December 4  December 6 | Foner, Chapter 15  **\*Group Project Presentations**  **\*Group Project Presentations**  **\*Group Project Papers Due** |

**Final Exam**: Monday, December 9, 1:00-3:00 P.M.