

# Course Syllabus: American History since 1865

Department of History

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

# HIST 1233-2H1 (Honors)

MWF: 9:00-9:50 A.M.

# Spring 2019

## **Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Whitney Snow

Office: OD 223

Office hours: MWF 10:00-11:00 A.M.; 12:00-1:00 P.M.; and R 8:00-noon; and by appointment

## Office phone: (940) 397-8917

E-mail: [whitney.snow@msutexas.edu](mailto:whitney.snow@msutexas.edu)

## **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 since 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. 2

## **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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual’s to whom credit is given).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% |
| Presentation | 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. A sample movie critique is provided on D2L.

**Presentation/Short Paper**

\*Each student will research a specific event, individual, or trend in early American history. A list of options will be provided on D2L.

\* At the end of the semester, students will give a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation on their findings and turn in a 7-10-page paper.

\*Students must also submit a bibliography containing the primary and secondary sources they consulted in order to complete this project. Information about various types of primary and secondary sources and how to cite said sources will be posted on D2L.

**\*Each student will be required to apply to MSU’s Celebration of Scholarship and present this same project. The deadline for applying is March 25.**

## **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. If the instructor’s office hours conflict with your schedule, feel free to see her after class or email her in regards to making an appointment.

**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:January 14-16

Deadline to file for graduation: February 18

Last Day to drop with a grade of “W:” March 25

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

## **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. A student with excessive unexcused absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor.

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

\*If students are absent when graded assignments/exams/critiques are returned, they should pick them up after the next class attended or during the instructor’s office hours.

\*If a student makes up an exam or writing assignment, it is his/her responsibility to pick up the graded exam or writing assignment after the next class attended or during the instructor’s office hours.

## **Instructor Class Policies**

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

\*Cell phones should be on silent and put away during class. If seen surfing, texting, and playing games on a phone, students may be asked to leave the classroom. During exams, students seen with a phone in their hands and/or on their desks will have their scantron confiscated and will not be able to complete said exam.

\*Smart watches are not allowed in class on days of exams. If a student is seen looking at his/her smartwatch during the midterm or final, he/she will have their scantron confiscated.

\*Earbuds will not be tolerated and if a student is seen wearing earbuds in class, he/she may be asked to leave the classroom.

\*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. This warning will be that a repeat offense will mean they are no longer welcome to bring a laptop to class. If this persists, the offending student may be asked to leave the classroom.

## **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 critiques, assignments, and exams will be on Wednesdays**

| Week or Module | Readings and other Assignments |
| --- | --- |
| **Week 1**  January 14  January 16  January 18 | Foner, Chapter 15 |
| **Week 2**  MLK Day  January 23  January 25 | Foner, Chapter 16  **\*Holiday** |
| **Week 3**  January 28  January 30  February 1 | Foner, Chapter 17  **\*Film Critique #1 Due** |
| **Week 4**  February 4  February 6  February 8 | Foner, Chapter 18 |
| **Week 5**  February 11  February 13  February 15 | Foner, Chapter 19  **\*Writing Assignment #1** |
| **Week 6**  February 18  February 20  February 22 | Foner, Chapter 20 |
| **Week 7**  February 25  February 27  March 1 | Foner, Chapter 21 |
| **Week 8**  March 4  March 6  March 8 | Foner, Chapter 22  **\*Midterm** |
| **Week 9**  March 11  March 13  March 15 | Foner, Chapter 23 |
| Week 10  **Spring Break** |  |
| **Week 11**  March 25  March 27  March 29 | Foner, Chapter 24 |
| **Week 12**  April 1  April 3  April 5 | Foner, Chapter 25  **Writing Assignment #2** |
| **Week 13**  April 8  April 10  April 12 | Foner, Chapter 26 |
| **Week 14**  April 15  April 17  April 19 | Foner, Chapter 27  **\*Film Critique #2 Due** |
| **Week 15**  April 22  April 24  April 26 | Foner, Chapter 28 |
| **Week 16**  April 29  May 1  May 3 | Lectures |

**Final Exam**: Saturday, May 4, 10:30-12:30