

**Syllabus**  
**History 1233-2H1: Who is the American Dream for?**  
**Honors Survey of United States History, 1877 to Present**

**Spring Semester**

Dr. P. Michael Rattanasengchanh

Meeting Times: MWF 1:00pm – 1:50pm

Lecture Classroom: PY 202

Office: OD 234

Contact information: [mike.rattanasengchanh@msutexas.edu](mailto:mike.rattanasengchanh@msutexas.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10am-2pm

*[All assignments, topics, and exams schedules are subject to change]*

**Overview:**

This course will provide an overview of American history from 1865 to the present with a focus on politics, society, military, and culture. The course emphasizes not so much dates and events but broad issues and themes that run throughout the American past. The end of the American Civil War was supposed to bring about major social, racial, and political changes but did not. A major theme of this class will look at how the legacies of the war can be seen today. America still grapples with issues of race, struggles between federal and state power, gender and sexuality, immigration, and class disputes. This course will look at ideas, events, and perspectives that are rarely discussed in high school courses and popular history. The idea of the American “dream” has been reserved for a select few, so we will look at how many have still yet to achieve it.

**Goals:**

1. Understand how history has shaped the society, culture, and world you currently live in specifically, you will learn about people, events, and perspectives that you most likely did not hear and read about in high school – this class is not taught like a high school athletic coach would.
2. Learn to analyze primary documents to know their meaning and context
3. Learn to write: summarize ideas from primary documents and learning materials in your own words to answer critical-thinking questions

**Texts:** The reading assignments will be posted online via D2L.

**Assignments:**

1. Exams: Midterm (25%) and Final Exam (25%): All short answers.
2. Weekly 2-page Essays (15%): EMAIL ME THE ESSAYS

- Pick **two (2)** syllabus readings to answer a specific essay question given. It will be due every Friday by 1pm, unless specified otherwise. You must use two syllabus readings to support your argument. Must provide quotes. LOOK AT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY document ON D2L for more instructions and details.

- However, 50% of all exams will cover the readings so you will be responsible for knowing the ones not used for the essays.

**3. Debate Project (25%):** **1)** Did the US need to drop the Atomic Bomb on Japan to win the war? **2)** What are some of the long-term impacts of atomic weapons and nuclear energy?

- Two-day debate

- Write a 2-page essay supporting your arguments made during the debate. More instructions to be provided later.

**4. Attendance and Participation (10%):** I take attendance every class. In addition, I keep track of who contributes in class lecture. IF you are shy and do not feel comfortable speaking in class, you can email me your comments on the same day the lecture was given.

**Letter and Number Grades:** Number grades will be converted to letter grades according to the following: A+ (98-100) A (93-98), A- (90-93), B+ (88-90), B (83-88), B- (80-83), C+ (78-80), C (73-78), C- (70-73), D+ (68-70), D (63-68), D- (60-63), and F (0-60). Grades of A+ cannot be given as final course grades but will be assigned to exams that warrant them.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all lectures. Every student will not be allowed any unexcused absences. For an absence to be excused for serious illness, immediate family or religious obligations, or other reasons, students must present compelling and appropriate documentation. Excused absences in the immediate family are excused; proper documentation must be presented. Students are responsible for presenting this documentation either in advance of the absence or as soon after the absence as possible.

### **Late Policy:**

Late papers are assessed a 5% penalty the first day and 2% each day thereafter.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

The following constitutes plagiarism: “the use, deliberate or not, of any outside source without proper acknowledgment. While the work of others often constitutes a necessary resource for academic research, such work must be properly used and credited to the original author. This

principle applies to professional scholars as well as to students....All work that students submit or present as part of course assignments or requirements must be their own original work....When students use the specific thoughts, ideas, writings, or expressions of others, they must accompany each instance of use with some form of attribution to the source. Direct quotes from any source (including the Internet) must be placed in quotation marks...and be accompanied by an appropriate citation.” THE USE OF SYNONOM REPLACEMENTS IS STILL CONSIDERED PLAGIARISM IN THIS CLASS. Plagiarism will result in the offender receiving zero for the ASSIGNMENT FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE AND REPORT TO MSU STUDENT LIFE AND THE HONORS PROGRAM. THE SECOND OFFENSE WILL BE A 0/ZERO IN THE COURSE.

**Accommodation:**

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 <http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/disability>.

**College Policies**

Campus Carry Rules/Policies  
 Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

**Student Handbook**

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

**Email Etiquette:** Please begin your emails with an appropriate salutation (e.g., Dear Prof. Rattanasengchanh...) and conclude them with your name. This is especially important if you use an email account that is not your university account.

**Emergencies:** In the event of a major emergency or other circumstances beyond the instructor’s control, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages may be subject to change.

Date	Topics	Readings	Assignment
<b><u>Week 1</u></b> 1/11/21, Monday	Introduction to course, how to succeed in		<b>1-page essay;</b> answer, Was the Civil War fought over

	course, and why study history		slavery or state's rights? <b>Due Friday 1/15/21 by 1:00pm</b>
1/13/21, Wednesday	Intro, End of the Civil War and Reconstruction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Cornerstone Speech;</li> <li>2) Confederate Constitution</li> <li>3) Abraham Lincoln Inaugural Speech 1865</li> <li>4) 1866 Memphis Riots</li> <li>5) Abram Colby Testimony</li> </ol>	
1/15/21, Friday	America's Industrial Revolution, the making of the Working Class, and the Beginning of Anti-Immigration		
<b>Week 2</b> 1/18/21, Monday	The American Empire and the Demise of the Native Americans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ghost Dance video</li> <li>2) Account from Battle of Little Big Horn</li> <li>3) Roosevelt Corollary</li> <li>4) Accounts from American war in Philippines</li> <li>5) Manifest Destiny</li> <li>6) Josiah Strong Excerpt</li> </ol>	What is America (as a nation) and what is an American? <b>Due Friday 1/22/21 1pm</b>
1/20/21, Wednesday	Early American Women's History And Homosexuality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Letter from Abigail Adams to Judge</li> <li>2) The Female Advocate</li> <li>3) The Rights and the Condition of Women</li> <li>4) U.S.-LGBT Timeline</li> <li>5) The Historians' Case Against Gay Discrimination (Excerpt)</li> </ol>	
1/22/21, Friday	The Other America (Murica)	<p>Watch Movie on youtube.com = "The Birth of a Nation,"</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGQaAddwjxg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGQaAddwjxg</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) How the Other Half Lives</li> </ol>	

		2) The Jungle 3) Sweatshop Quotes	
<b>Week 3</b> 1/25/21, Monday	WWI and Growth of “Big Brother”	1) Priest and Two Others Tarred 2) Snowden and Espionage Act 3) Illusions of the White Race 4) Ho Chi Minh’s Admiration for the U.S.	<b>Answer Essay Question:</b> What does America think about sex and race? <b>Due Friday 1/29/2021 1pm</b>
<b>1/27/21, Wednesday</b>	<b>Prep for Debate</b>	<b>Prep for Debate</b>	<b>Prep for Debate</b>
1/29/21, Friday	Interwar and Prosperity?	1) Flapper Girl Article 2) “I need a Little Sugar in My Bowl” song 3) Conservative Manifesto 4) Anti-Suffrage Pamphlet	
<b>Week 4</b> 2/1/21, Monday	Great Depression	1) First-hand accounts from the Great Depression	<b>No Essay Due</b>
2/3/21, Wednesday	WWII	1) “Boston Girl Swings 10-Ton Crane” 2) Japanese Internment Documents 3) African-American WWII Soldiers	
2/5/21, Friday	America and the Holocaust	1) America and the Holocaust Articles	
<b>Week 5</b> 2/8/21, Monday	<b>Debate in Class</b>	<b>Debate in Class</b>	<b>Debate in Class</b>
<b>2/10/21, Wednesday</b>	<b>Debate in Class</b>	<b>Debate in Class</b>	<b>Debate in Class</b>
2/12/21, Friday	Origins of the Cold War		<b>2-PAGE Debate essay due 2/12/21 Friday</b>
<b>Week 6</b> 2/15/21, Monday	America Adjusts to Life after WWII	1) Truman Doctrine 2) Stalin Speech 3) PTSD before it was called that. <i>Washington Post</i> article, <a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-greatest-generations-forgotten-trauma/2015/09/11/8978d3b0-46b0-11e5-">https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-greatest-generations-forgotten-trauma/2015/09/11/8978d3b0-46b0-11e5-</a>	<b>Answer Essay Question:</b> Was communism a real, legitimate threat to American citizens? <b>Due</b>

		<a href="http://8ab4-c73967a143d3_story.html?utm_term=.08d2929ddb4">8ab4-c73967a143d3_story.html?utm_term=.08d2929ddb4</a>	<b>Friday</b> <b>2/19/2021 1pm</b>
2/17/21, Wednesday	Anti-Communism at Home	1) McCarthy Speech 2) Seeger Testimony 3) Cooper Testimony 4) “When America's hottest jazz stars were sent to cool cold-war tensions”	
2/19/21, Friday	1950s: Prosperity, Conservatism, and Hipsters	1) Watch Social-Sex Attitudes in Adolescence ( <a href="https://archive.org/details/SocialSe1953">https://archive.org/details/SocialSe1953</a> ) 2) Sexual Behavior in the Human Male	
<b><u>WEEK 7</u></b> <b><u>2/22/21,</u></b> <b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b><u>Review</u></b>	<b><u>Review</u></b>	<b><u>Review</u></b>
<b><u>2/24/21,</u></b> <b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b><u>Midterm Exam in Class</u></b>	<b><u>Midterm Exam in Class</u></b>	<b><u>Midterm Exam in Class</u></b>
2/26/21, Friday	Origins of Vietnam War		
<b><u>Week 8</u></b> 3/1/21, Monday	Vietnam in America	1) Watergate Tapes: Listen to “Smoking Gun” recording ( <a href="https://watergate.info/1972/06/23/the-smoking-gun-tape.html">https://watergate.info/1972/06/23/the-smoking-gun-tape.html</a> ) 2) My Lai Massacre Account 3) The Last Days of Saigon  4) Ho Chi Minh’s Independence Speech 5) JFK Speech on VN, 1956 6) LBJ Speech on VN, 1965  7) John Kerry and War Crimes in Vietnam ( <a href="http://www.vvaw.org/commentary/?id=399">http://www.vvaw.org/commentary/?id=399</a> )	<b>Answer Essay</b> <b>Question: What 2 things do we learn about our political leaders and American society during the time period covered this week? (4 total)</b> <b>Due Friday 3/5/2021 1pm</b>
3/3/21, Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Half of Vietnam War and Conservative Backlash to Hippies	1) Nixon’s Silent Majority Speech	

3/5/21, Friday	Civil Rights, Women's Rights, Gay Rights, and Latino Rights	1) Martin Luther King Jr. and the Vietnam War Speech	
<b>Week 9</b> 3/8/21, Monday	1970s, Disco, Pres. Carter	1) Iranian Hostage Crisis Account 2) Boogie Nights Article	<b>No Essay Due</b>
3/10/21, Wednesday	Cold War gets Hot	1) Robert Beckhusen Article 2) 1983_The Most Dangerous Year of the Cold War	
3/12/21, Friday	Reagan, Madonna, and AIDS	1) "America's HIV outbreak started in this city, 10 years before anyone noticed" 2) Listen to NPR episode titled, "The Golden Age of MTV" ( <a href="https://www.npr.org/2011/11/06/141991877/the-golden-age-of-mtv-and-yes-there-was-one">https://www.npr.org/2011/11/06/141991877/the-golden-age-of-mtv-and-yes-there-was-one</a> )	
<b>Week 10</b> 3/15/21, Monday	End of the Cold War	1) Ronald Reagan's Berlin Speech	<b>Answer Essay Question:</b> Though America "won" the Cold War, was American society any better as a result? <b>Due Friday 3/19/2021 1pm</b>
3/17/21, Wednesday	American New World Order	1) Bush's New World Order Speech	
3/19/21, Friday	1990s and Alternative Music	1) Rodney King Accounts Article 2) Monica Lewinsky Article 3) Timothy McVeigh and Oklahoma City Bombing	
<b>Week 11</b> 3/22/21, Monday	Clinton		<b>Answer Essay Question:</b> Give me one good decision and one bad

			decision the government made as a result of 9/11 from the readings. <b>Due Friday 3/26/2021 1pm</b>
3/24/21, Wednesday	9/11 – Terrorism	1) Why did we go to war in Iraq? 2) “Disposable Soldiers” Article 3) Review of <i>The Looming Tower</i> 4) Osama bin Laden Story 5) After 9/11, Americans United to Protect the Country. Today, We’re Divided by Threats that Don’t Exist	
3/26/21, Friday	Bush Jr. and Resurgence of Conservatism	1) Legacy of No Child Left Behind	
<b><u>Week 12</u></b> 3/29/21, Monday	2008 Financial Crisis	1) Millennials Wounded from 2008 Financial Crisis 2) Arnold Kling Article 3) The Effects of the Economic Crisis on American Households	
3/31/21, Wednesday	Obama	1) Barack Obama’s 2004 Speech 2) Conservative Backlash against Obama 3) Reaction to Obama being Elected	
4/1/21 – 4/3/21	Break	Break	Break
<b><u>Week 13</u></b> 4/5/21, Monday	Trump	1) Excerpts from <i>Fire and Fury</i> 2) Trump’s Inaugural Speech 3) Voices from Democratic Counties Where Trump Won Big	<b>Question:</b> Name two ways Trump won the election in 2016 and then answer, why do people fall for “fake news” according to the readings? <b>Due Friday 4/9/21, 1pm</b>



4/7/21, Wednesday	Biden	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Parler’s Founder Explains Why He Build Trump’s New Favorite Social Media App</li> <li>2) Manipulated Video of Biden Mixing Up States was Shared 1.1m Times before Being Removed</li> </ol>	
4/9/21, Friday	Current Issues: Fake News	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <a href="https://www.cits.ucsb.edu/fake-news/spread">https://www.cits.ucsb.edu/fake-news/spread</a></li> <li>2) <a href="http://news.mit.edu/2018/mit-csail-machine-learning-system-detects-fake-news-from-source-1004">http://news.mit.edu/2018/mit-csail-machine-learning-system-detects-fake-news-from-source-1004</a></li> <li>3) Take Quiz: <a href="https://www.channelone.com/feature/quiz-can-you-spot-the-fake-news-story/">https://www.channelone.com/feature/quiz-can-you-spot-the-fake-news-story/</a>.</li> </ol>	
<b>Week 14</b> 4/12/21, Monday	Current Issues: Immigration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/dec/19/central-america-migrants-us-foreign-policy">https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/dec/19/central-america-migrants-us-foreign-policy</a></li> <li>2) <a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2018/12/21/has-united-states-foreign-policy-central-america-fueled-migrant-crisis-donald-trump/2338489002/">https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2018/12/21/has-united-states-foreign-policy-central-america-fueled-migrant-crisis-donald-trump/2338489002/</a></li> <li>3) <a href="https://medium.com/s/story/timeline-us-intervention-central-america-a9bea9ebc148">https://medium.com/s/story/timeline-us-intervention-central-america-a9bea9ebc148</a></li> </ol>	<b>Answer Essay Question: <u>from the four “Current Issues,” what are three things you learned? Due Friday 4/16/21 1pm</u></b>
4/14/21, Wednesday	<b>Current Issues: COVID</b>	1) Sperm Demon and Scamdemic Articles	
4/16/21, Friday	Current Issues: U.S.- Chinese Relations	1) More Pain than Gain: How the US-China Trade War Hurt America	
<b>Week 15</b> <b>4/19/21,</b> <b>Monday</b>	<b>Review</b>	<b>Review</b>	<b>Review</b>
4/21/21, Wednesday	No Class	No Class	No Class
4/23/21, Friday	No Class	No Class	No Class

<b><u>4/24/21,</u></b> <b><u>Saturday</u></b>	<b><u>Final Exam</u></b> <b><u>10:30am-</u></b> <b><u>12:30pm</u></b>	<b><u>Final Exam 10:30am-12:30pm</u></b>	<b><u>Final Exam</u></b> <b><u>10:30am-</u></b> <b><u>12:30pm</u></b>
--	---	--	---