

# Course Syllabus: American History since 1865

Department of History

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

# HIST 1233-204

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

# Spring 2020

## **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

E-mail: 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 the Civil War. 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. 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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual’s to whom credit is given).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% |
| Writing Assignment #3 | 15% |
| Midterm | 25% |
| Final | 30% |

| 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 50 multiple choice questions.

\*Students are expected to bring a scantron 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 three 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.

## **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.

**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.

**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 and it will indicate estimated return.

**Email**

\*Please send all emails to my email address: 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 21-23

Deadline to file for graduation: February 17

Last Day to drop with a grade of “W:” March 30

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 more than four 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.

## **Instructor Class Policies**

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

\*Cell phones should be on silent and put away during class. If seen surfing, texting, or playing games, students may be asked to leave the classroom. During exams and writing assignments, students seen with a phone in their hands or on their desks will have their scantron/bluebook confiscated.

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

\*If a student is seen wearing earbuds or headphones in class, they may be asked to leave the classroom.

\*Laptops are a privilege and not a right. If students are seen using the laptop for a non-class-related purpose, a verbal warning will be given. 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 [Disability 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**January 20January 22January 24 | **Martin Luther King, Jr., Day**Foner, Chapter 15 |
| **Week 2**January 27January 29January 31 | Foner, Chapter 16 |
| **Week 3** February 3February 5February 7 | Foner, Chapter 17**\*Writing Assignment #1** |
| **Week 4**February 10February 12February 14 | Foner, Chapter 18 |
| **Week 5**February 17February 19February 21 | Foner, Chapter 19**\*Writing Assignment #2** |
| **Week 6**February 24February 26February 28 | Foner, Chapter 20 |
| **Week 7**March 2March 4March 6 | Foner, Chapter 21 |
| **Week 8**March 9March 11March 13 | Foner, Chapter 22**\*Midterm** |
| **Week 9**March 16-20 | **Spring Break** |
| **Week 10**March 23March 25March 27 | Foner, Chapter 23 |
| **Week 11**March 30April 1April 3 | Foner, Chapter 24**\*Writing Assignment #3** |
| **Week 12**April 6April 8-10 | Foner, Chapter 25**Easter Break** |
| **Week 13**April 13April 15April 17 | Foner, Chapter 26 |
| **Week 14**April 20April 22April 24 | Foner, Chapter 27 |
| **Week 15**April 27April 29May 1 | Foner, Chapter 28 |
| **Week 16**May 4May 6May 8 | Lecture and Review |

**Final Exam**: May 13 (Wednesday), 1:00-3:00 P.M. (location to be announced)