



## **Course Syllabus: Survey of American History to 1865**

**HIST 1133 Section x30/x31**

**Summer I 2026**

**Meeting Time: This is an Asynchronous Online Course**

### **Contact Information**

Instructor: Jackson Pearson, PhD

Office: PY O-216

Office hours: Please email the professor to ask any questions related to the course or to schedule a ZOOM meeting to discuss any questions or concerns that you might have. I am generally available to meet via ZOOM Mondays through Thursdays from 10:00am until 3:00pm. If this timeframe will not work with your schedule, please email to schedule an alternative time.

Office phone: (940) 397-4014

E-mail: [jackson.pearson@msutexas.edu](mailto:jackson.pearson@msutexas.edu)

### **E-Mail and Communication Policy**

Your MSU e-mail account is the official communication method used in this course. Notice: Please use your school e-mail account to send questions pertaining to this course. I will not respond to messages sent from personal e-mail accounts. Responses will typically occur within 24 to 48 hours. If your email concerns a grade, you must wait 24 hours after receiving your grade before emailing your question/concern. (Example: if test grades are given back on Monday, you must wait until Tuesday before emailing me concerning your grade. I will not respond to emails sent earlier.)

**\*When sending an email, please put your Last Name, Course and Section Number, and Question Topic in the Subject Line. Example: Pearson, HIST 1133-x30/x31, Quiz 1.**

### **Course Description**

Students will gain an understanding of American history from European Contact with the Americas through the American Civil War (1492-1865). Students will explore the political, economic, religious, and social development of the United States during this period. This course will highlight the interconnections between peoples across the world and how freedom and slavery developed concurrently in the United States and ultimately ruptured into civil war. Students will gain an understanding of how these historical events and themes continue to influence our world today.

### **Textbook & Instructional Materials**

\*The following materials are assigned for use in the course to help students gain a broader understanding of American history prior to 1865. The authors' viewpoints are their own and not necessarily endorsed by the university.

*The American YAWP: A Massively Collaborative Open U. S. History Textbook*. Vol. to 1877. Eds. Joseph Locke and Ben Wright. (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2019).

[yawp\\_v1\\_open\\_pdf.pdf \(americanyawp.com\)](#). **(Free online)**. Use the link and bookmark the textbook to your favorites. For the primary document reader, use the following link. [The American Yawp](#). *The American Yawp* is free online, if you choose to purchase a hard copy, cost ~ \$18.00 - \$35.00 via MSU Bookstore or ~ \$25.00 via [The American Yawp | Stanford University Press](#).

Allison, Robert J. *The American Revolution: A Concise History*. (Oxford University Press, 2011). ISBN – 9780199752669. Cost ~ \$6.00 - \$10.00 via MSU Bookstore. Unlimited eBook copies are available via the Moffett Library at MSU. [The American Revolution : A Very Short Introduction - Record details - EBSCOhost Research Databases](#).

**THECB Required Course Objectives:** This course fulfills a Texas core requirement for Critical Thinking, Communication, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. As such, the course will assess the following learning objectives: All four criteria are measured through a critical writing assignment, which may include one or more of the following: Substantial essay exam question; a critical and analytical book review; a research paper or project; a reading response paper; or other appropriate assignment as determined by the course professor.

### **Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance**

Students should be aware of existing university support services to help them succeed in their academic journey. Please visit the following link to view tutoring and health services provided by the university. These services exist to help ensure student success. Please visit the following links for more information. [Student Health, Wellness, and Safety](#); [Tutoring and Academic Support Services](#); [Supplemental Instruction](#); [TRiO Student Support Services](#).

### **Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures**

*“As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so.”* Academic Dishonesty/Misconduct -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), etc.- will not be tolerated and will receive an F. For example, “cutting and pasting” from any internet source or poorly paraphrasing (i.e. changing a few words with the synonym function) without citing that source is plagiarism. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct Student Handbook](#)

### **Generative AI Policy**

This course allows limited use of Generative AI in course assignments. Generating text via AI and citing it as your own is academic misconduct, and the instructor reserves the right to give that assignment an F. **\*If your assignment/paper/quiz/or exam is flagged for generative AI, you will earn an F. You are not a robot. You are a living breathing human, think for yourself.**

*When can you use Generative AI in this course?*

- The use of Generative AI is allowed in this course for the following: brainstorming your ideas, checking your grammar, as a study aide to help prepare for quizzes and exams.

*When must you avoid Generative AI in this course?*

- The use of Generative AI is not permitted for the following: Writing a draft of an assignment, writing entire sentences, paragraphs, or papers to complete course assignments.

*Why should you limit your use of Generative AI?*

- Learning how to analyze information, how to think critically, how to communicate with others, how to discuss and engage with big ideas, and how to work with others is something that we do not want machines or AI to do for us. AI can be a supplemental tool, but your education and professional career depends on your ability to develop a broad skill set independent of reliance on AI functionalities. In particular, this course is designed to help you improve your critical reading comprehension and analytical skills, your written communication skills, and your ability to form arguments supported by historical evidence. Reliance on generative AI to complete course assignments will limit the growth and development of these skills which you will need for your academic and professional careers. Do not utilize generative AI as a crutch or as a substitute for developing your expertise.

### Grading

Assignments	Points
Quizzes (15 at 10 pts each)	150
Primary Source Analysis Assignments (9 at 10 pts each)	90
Allison, <i>American Revolution</i> Review	75
Midterm Essay Exam	125
Final Essay Exam	125
Total Points	565

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	> 508
B	452-507
C	395-451
D	339-394
F	< 338

### Quizzes

Quizzes will be given to assess student completion and comprehension of the assigned readings. Students will take 15 quizzes during the semester for a total of 150 points. Quizzes will assess student comprehension of assigned textbook chapters. The module overview and quiz instructions will indicate what content is being assessed on each quiz. In total, the quizzes will account for 27% of the final grade. Each quiz will be due by Sunday at 11:59pm for the week that they are assigned. Students should read the assigned textbook chapter before taking the quiz to familiarize themselves with chapter's content. Students will have 20 minutes to complete the quiz once it is opened. Quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice questions. **\*Note: all quizzes will be due on Sundays except Module 5 Assignments. Due to Finals Week, Module 5 will be due Thursday, July 2 by 11:59pm.**

### Primary Source Analysis Assignments

Students will complete nine primary source analysis assignments during the semester (two per module except for Module 5). Students will choose two primary sources from a list provided by the professor. Students will evaluate and analyze the primary source by identifying the author/creator; when and where the source was created; explanation of the source and its content; explanation of the source's importance; and its relation to larger concurrent historical themes. Each analysis assignment will be graded for 10 points possible for a total of 90 points. These assignments will account for 16% of the final grade. Students should utilize the template and rubric provided in the Important Documents

Module on D2L. I recommend downloading the template and using it to complete the PSAs. Students may choose any of the primary sources listed in the module.

### **Midterm Exam**

The midterm exam is due **\*Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm**. The exam will be graded out of a total of 125 points. The exam will have 6 discussion questions. Students must answer each question with a response that is at least 125 words in length. Effective responses will incorporate evidence from the textbook and cite page numbers or chapter/section information in parentheses after the sentence. [For example, “this is a quote from the textbook.” (*Yawp*, pg. 2) or if using the online website (*Yawp*, Ch. 2, Sect. III)]. A rubric is included in the Important Documents Module. The professor will provide a list of key terms at least one week before the exam to help students prepare. Students will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to take the exam once it is opened. This exam will account for a total of 125 points. It represents 22% of the final grade. Please make sure that you have uninterrupted time to finish the exam as you only have one opportunity to complete the exam.

### **Book Review**

Students will write a book review on the assigned class monograph, Robert Allison’s *The American Revolution: A Concise History*. Students will write a 600 to 900-word review. Students should use course content to engage with the book in their response. A rubric and prompt may be found in the Important Course Documents Module. The review will be graded for a total of 75 points. This review will account for 13% of the final grade. **\*The Review is due by Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:59pm.**

### **Final Exam**

**\*The Final Exam must be completed by Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:59pm.** The final exam will consist of 7 discussion questions. Students must answer each question with a response of at least 125 words. Responses should incorporate evidence from the textbook to support your arguments, remember to cite the page number from which the information is pulled from. The professor will provide a list of key terms at least one week before the exam to help students prepare. The Final Exam will only assess content following the Midterm Exam. It will count for a total of 125 points (22% of the Total Grade). Students will have two hours to complete the final exam. Please make sure that you have an uninterrupted time period to finish the exam. Any technical issues will result in an alternative all-essay exam.

### **Late Work**

Students will be allowed to submit late work for writing assignments; however, for each 24-hour period that the assignment is late, the student will be assessed an automatic 10% penalty from the total points available. Professor reserves the right to determine eligibility for late submission on a case-by-case basis for extenuating circumstances.

### **Make Up Work/Tests**

Students will only be allowed to make up exams if they provide proper documentation for their absence or inability to complete the exam by the due date. Exams will be open for at least four days. This means students will have ample opportunity to complete exams prior to the due date.

### **Important Dates**

Last day for term schedule changes: June 1, 2026. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for August graduation: June 22, 2026. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of “W:” June 17, 2026. [Academic Calendar](#). About half of course assignments will be completed by this point, so you should be able to make an informed decision by

this date. It is the student's responsibility to meet with their academic advisor prior to withdrawing from a class.

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Last Day of Regular Instruction: July 1, 2026.

### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

This course will be taken entirely through D2L. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides our primary form of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties with D2L, please contact [helpdesk@msutexas.edu](mailto:helpdesk@msutexas.edu).

### **Technology Requirements and Expectations**

This course requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***\*Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **\*Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classroom can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your professor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

### **Instructor Class Policies**

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, discussions, chats, and interactions with other students. Students must display respect and courtesy toward their peers and the professor. If a student displays inappropriate or offensive behavior during class, they will be immediately dismissed from the class. The student will not be permitted to attend class until they meet with the professor and discuss the situation. Once an acceptable solution is agreed to, the student will be allowed to attend class again. If I deem any online messaging to be inappropriate or offensive, I will forward the message to the Chair of the department and appropriate action will be taken, not excluding expulsion from the course. The same rules apply online as they do in person. Be respectful of other students. Foul discourse will not be tolerated. Please take a moment and read some [basic information about netiquette](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/) (<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>).

Participating in the virtual realm, including social media sites and shared-access sites sometimes used for educational collaborations, should be done with honor and integrity. Please review the relevant sections of the [Midwestern State University Student Handbook](#) for more information and relevant policies.

### **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 a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each 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) exist 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](#).

### **College Policies**

#### *Campus Carry Rules/Policies*

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and 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.

#### *Campus Carry*

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

#### *Active Shooter*

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

## Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University Catalog. Students must follow the proper appeals process. [MSU Catalog](#)

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

### Course Schedule:

The following course schedule is the anticipated schedule for the duration of the semester. The schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the professor. Any changes will be communicated to students via email and D2L announcements.

### Course Schedule

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Module 1: 6/1 – 6/7  Topics: Course Introduction/Syllabus Review; Indigenous America/European Contact/The Era of Colonization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review Course Syllabus</li> <li>- Take Quiz – Syllabus Review (5 Questions Related to Information found in Syllabus)</li> <li>- Read Chapters 1, 2, and 3 in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter Quizzes.</li> <li>- Review Primary Sources in Module 1 and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guides for two different primary sources.</li> <li>- Begin Reading Allison, <i>The American Revolution</i>. Read Chapter 1.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Syllabus Quiz – Wednesday (6/3) by 11:59pm. <b>*Take Before Completing other Assignments!</b></li> <li>- Chapter 1, 2, 3 Quizzes – Sunday (6/7) by 11:59pm.</li> <li>- Module 1 Primary Source Analysis – Sunday (6/7) by 11:59pm.</li> </ul>
Module 2: 6/8 – 2/14  Topics: Colonial Society/Imperial Wars/The American Revolution/New Nation & Midterm Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Read Chapters 4, 5, &amp; 6 in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter 2 Quiz.</li> <li>- Review Primary Sources in Module 2 and complete Primary Source Analysis Guide for two different primary sources.</li> <li>- Take Midterm Exam on content from Chapters 1 – 6 in <i>American Yawp</i>.</li> <li>- Read Chapters 2 through 5 in Allison, <i>The American Revolution</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 4, 5, 6 Quizzes – Sunday (6/14) by 11:59pm.</li> <li>- Module 2 Primary Source Analysis – Sunday (6/14) by 11:59pm.</li> <li>- Midterm Exam – Sunday (6/14) by 11:59pm.</li> </ul>

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
<p>Module 3: 6/15 – 6/21</p> <p>Topics: The Early Republic/The Jacksonian Era/Market Revolution &amp; Book Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Read Chapters 7, 8, &amp; 9 in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter Quizzes.</li> <li>- Review Primary Sources in Module 3 and complete a Primary Source Analysis Guide for one primary source.</li> <li>- Finish reading Allison, <i>The American Revolution</i>. Complete book review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapters 7, 8, 9 Quizzes – Sunday (6/21) by 11:59pm.</li> <li>- Module 3 Primary Source Analysis – Sunday (6/21) by 11:59pm.</li> <li>- Book Review of Allison, <i>American Revolution</i> due Sunday (6/21) by 11:59pm.</li> </ul>
<p>Module 4: 6/22 – 6/28</p> <p>Topics: Religion and Reform/The Cotton Revolution/Manifest Destiny</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Read Chapters 10, 11, &amp; 12 in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter Quizzes.</li> <li>- Review Primary Sources in Module 4 and complete a complete two different Primary Source Analysis Guides for two primary sources.</li> <li>- Begin reviewing for Final Exam.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 10, 11, 12 Quizzes – Sunday (6/28) by 11:59pm.</li> <li>- Module 4 Primary Source Analysis – Sunday (6/28) by 11:59pm.</li> </ul>
<p>Module 5: 6/29 – 7/2</p> <p>Topics: The Sectional Crisis/The Civil War/ Final Exam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Read Chapters 13 &amp; 14 in <i>American Yawp</i> and take Chapter Quizzes.</li> <li>- Review key terms for final exam.</li> <li>- Take final exam by Thursday, July 2 at 11:59pm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 13, 14 Quizzes – Wednesday (7/1) by 11:59pm.</li> <li>- Final Exam – Thursday (7/2) by 11:59pm.</li> </ul>