

# Syllabus

## History 1233-206: Who is the American Dream for? Survey of United States History, 1877 to Present

### Spring Semester

Dr. “R” or Rattanasengchanh

Meeting Times: **Tuesday and Thursday 2:00pm – 3:20pm**

Meeting Room: PY 103

Office: OD 234

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Office Hours:

*[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

### Required Texts

- YOU WILL DO LESS READING THAN IF I ASSIGNED YOU A TEXTBOOK.
- Most of the readings will be primary sources such as newspapers, personal stories, and government documents **from people living during the time period** covered in this class. All readings will be made available online in D2L.

- **NO** *The American Yawp, Vol. 1: To 1877* – WE ARE NOT USING THIS TEXT

### Assignments

1. \*\*\* Readings will be posted online in D2L
2. Midterm and Final Exams 25% and 25%
  - o No multiple choice; only written response questions
3. Participation and Attendance: 10%
  - o I will take attendance
  - o I will keep track of participation
4. 3 Primary source analysis: 40% **1-2 pages**. Find the instruction/template document in D2L for more instructions.

### Other Policies

- No late papers.
- All assignments are to be submitted in Dropbox AS A MICROSOFT WORD DOCUMENT when they are due. Other formats not accepted (No PDF format accepted).
- Work outside of school, extracurricular activities, and having a number of assignments due in the same week or on the same day are not acceptable reasons for handing work in late.
- DEATH OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS, WITH DOCUMENTATION, WILL BE APPROVED. ILLNESS MUST HAVE DOCTOR'S NOTE in order to make-up assignments but this is still up to the discretion of the professor.

### 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](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

## **MSU Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

## **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." Plagiarism will result in the offender receiving zero in the course.

FIRST TIME WILL BE A WARNING WITH A 0/ZERO on the assignment.  
SECOND TIME WILL BE A 0/ZERO on the assignment, FAIL CLASS, AND REPORT TO STUDENT LIFE. **LAST SEMESTER SEVERAL ONLINE STUDENTS WERE CAUGHT FOR PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING ON THE EXAM – zero tolerance.**

## **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).

### **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>.

### **Smoking/Tobacco Policy**

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS 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**

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

### **Notice**

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

### **Student Handbook**

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

### **Grading Scale:**

92-100%=A

90-91%=A-

87-89%=B+

82-86%=B

79-81%=B-

77-78%=C+

72-76%=C

69-71%=C-

67-68%=D+

62-66%=D

59-61%=D-

0-58%=F

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
January 17, Tuesday & January 19, Thursday	Intro, End of the Civil War and Reconstruction  America's Industrial Revolution, the making of the Working Class, and the Beginning of Anti-Immigration	1) Cornerstone Speech; 2) Confederate Constitution 3) Abraham Lincoln Inaugural Speech 1865 4) 1866 Memphis Riots 5) Abram Colby Testimony	
January 24, Tuesday & January 26, Thursday	The American Empire and the Demise of the Native Americans  Early American Women's History And Homosexuality	1) Ghost Dance video 2) Account from Battle of Little Big Horn 3) Roosevelt Corollary 4) Accounts from American war in Philippines 5) Manifest Destiny 6) Josiah Strong Excerpt 7) Letter from Abigail Adams to Judge 8) The Female Advocate  9) The Rights and the Condition of Women  10) U.S.-LGBT Timeline	

		<p>11) The Historians' Case Against Gay Discrimination (Excerpt)  Watch Movie on youtube.com = "The Birth of a Nation,"  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGQaAddwjxg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGQaAddwjxg</a></p> <p>13) How the Other Half Lives  14) The Jungle  15) Sweatshop Quotes</p>	
<p>January 31, Tuesday &amp; February 2, Thursday</p>	<p>The Other America (Murica)   WWI and Growth of "Big Brother"</p>	<p>1) Priest and Two Others Tarrd  2) Snowden and Espionage Act  3) Illusions of the White Race  4) Ho Chi Minh's Admiration for the U.S.  5) Flapper Girl Article  6) "I need a Little Sugar in My Bowl" song  7) Conservative Manifesto  8) Anti-Suffrage Pamphlet</p>	
<p>February 7, Tuesday &amp; February 9, Thursday</p>	<p>Interwar and Prosperity?   Great Depression</p>	<p>1) First-hand accounts from the Great Depression  2) "Boston Girl Swings 10-Ton Crane"  3) Japanese Internment Documents  4) African-American WWII Soldiers  5) America and the Holocaust Articles</p>	
<p>February 14, Tuesday &amp; February 16, Thursday</p>	<p>WWII   America and the Holocaust</p>	<p>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/2015/09/11/8978d3b0-46b0-11e5-8ab4-c73967a143d3_story.html?utm_term=.08d2929ddb4">https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-greatest-generations-forgotten-trauma/2015/09/11/8978d3b0-46b0-11e5-8ab4-c73967a143d3_story.html?utm_term=.08d2929ddb4</a></p>	
<p>February 21, Tuesday &amp; February 23, Thursday</p>	<p>Origins of the Cold War   America Adjusts to Life after WWII</p>	<p>1) McCarthy Speech  2) Seeger Testimony  3) Cooper Testimony  4) "When America's hottest jazz stars were sent to cool cold-war tensions"</p>	

February 28, Tuesday & March 2, Thursday	Anti-Communism at Home  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	PSA #1 due March 2, Thursday before 11:59pm
March 7, Tuesday	Origins of Vietnam War	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> )	
March 9, Thursday		<b>Midterm</b>	<b>Midterm</b>
<b>March 13-18 Spring Break</b>		No Class	No Class
March 21, Tuesday & March 23, Thursday	Vietnam in America  2 <sup>nd</sup> Half of Vietnam War and Conservative Backlash to Hippies	1) Nixon’s Silent Majority Speech 2) Martin Luther King Jr. and the Vietnam War Speech 3) Iranian Hostage Crisis Account 4) Boogie Nights Article	
March 28, Tuesday & March	Civil Rights, Women’s Rights, Gay		



30, Thursday	Rights, and Latino Rights  1970s, Disco, Pres. Carter		
April 4, Tuesday	Cold War gets Hot	1) Robert Beckhusen Article 2) 1983_The Most Dangerous Year of the Cold War	PSA #2 due April 4, Tuesday before 11:59pm
<b>Holiday Break April 5-9</b>		No Class	No Class
April 11, Tuesday & April 13, Thursday	Reagan, Madonna, and AIDS  End of the Cold War	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> )  3) Ronald Reagan’s Berlin Speech  4) Bush’s New World Order Speech	
April 18, Tuesday & April 20, Thursday	1990s and Alternative Music  Clinton  9/11 – Terrorism	1) Rodney King Accounts Article 2) Monica Lewinsky Article 3) Timothy McVeigh and Oklahoma City Bombing  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	
April 25, Tuesday & April 27, Thursday	Bush Jr. and Resurgence of Conservatism  Obama	1) Legacy of No Child Left Behind 1) Millennials Wounded from 2008 Financial Crisis 2) Arnold Kling Article 3) The Effects of the Economic Crisis on American Households	PSA #3 due April 27, Thursday

		<p>1) Barack Obama’s 2004 Speech</p> <p>2) Conservative Backlash against Obama</p> <p>3) Reaction to Obama being Elected</p>	before 11:59pm
May 2, Tuesday & May 4, Thursday	Trump  Biden	<p>1) Excerpts from <i>Fire and Fury</i></p> <p>2) Trump’s Inaugural Speech</p> <p>3) Voices from Democratic Counties Where Trump Won Big</p> <p>4) Parler’s Founder Explains Why He Build Trump’s New Favorite Social Media App</p> <p>5) Manipulated Video of Biden Mixing Up States was Shared 1.1m Times before Being Removed</p> <p>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></p> <p>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></p> <p>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></p>	
May 6, Saturday		<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>