



Course Syllabus: Survey of U.S. History to 1865
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
HIST 1133 Section 102/150
Fall Semester 2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Brandon Blakeslee

Office: OD 217

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday: 12:50pm-1:50pm; Tuesday, Thursday:
10:00am-12:30pm

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Course Description

General survey of American History from its European origins to 1865. Required of all baccalaureate students.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

- Joseph Locke and Ben Wright, et al. *American Yawp*. Access the book by going to the website: <http://www.americanyawp.com/index.html> and then following the instructions to download or access the text.
- One-subject notebook specifically for this class

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

GA: Mattison Bratcher

Office: OD 232

Email: mpbratcher0508@my.msutexas.edu

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday: 12:00-2:00pm, Tuesday: 12:00-1:00pm

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work, not the individual to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Grading – Your grade will be out of 1000 possible points spread out over three categories of assignments: In class participation (150 points), Written Assignments (650 points), and Exams (200 points)

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Notebook Checks	150
It May Be Unpopular but...	100
Historic Figure Selection	50
Annotated Bibliography	50
Wikipedia style Paper	100
Opening Arguments Defense	75
Defense of a Historic Figure	100
Opening Arguments Critique	75
Critique of a Historic Figure	100
Exams	200
Total Points	1000

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	900
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Homework

Most homework assignments will be due at midnight and should be submitted via D2L. Make sure to submit your documents in a standard file format (.docx or .pdf), if we cannot open your file, you will get a zero. Apart from your assignments, you will need to turn in your notebooks four times during the semester and those will be due at the end of class (and I will get them back to you by the beginning of the next class period).

Exams

You will have two exams over the course of the semester, a midterm exam and a final exam. Both will be online and both will be worth 100 points each. You will have at least twenty-four hours to complete the exam and you will **not** be required to have a lockdown browser.

Projects Required

There is a major project (worth 65% of your grade) where you will research a historic figure from the timeframe of the class (1400-1865), give me a background of their life and evaluate the positive and negative influence they had on history. Instead of a larger paper due at the end of the semester, I have broken the project into different parts and spread the due dates over the semester as a whole.

Extra Credit

There may be opportunities for extra credit over the semester but I do not offer individual extra credit.

Late Work

I am happy to grant extensions, but the sooner you let me know the better. If you miss an assignment, you have a week to reach out to me to schedule a time to turn it in, otherwise it will be a zero

Make-up Tests

Since all tests are online and have a 24 hour window, I do not anticipate providing make-up tests.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 29 (Thursday) Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: September 23 (Monday). Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 25 (Monday) Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).

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

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.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. That being said, I understand that things happen and you may not be

able to attend class and so I do not take attendance. However, you are still responsible for information that was discussed in class and I recommend you get notes from your fellow classmates (lecture slides will not be posted online).

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 an 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 prohibit 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 as 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 the 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.

Course Schedule:

See schedule on next page

Week or Module	Readings/ Important Dates	Due Date
Week 1 8/25 to 8/29	Introduction - "Indigenous America" I-III	N/A
Week 2 9/3 to 9/5	Monday: Labor Day, No Class "Indigenous America" IV-V "Colliding Cultures" I-III	My Unpopular Opinion due 9/05
Week 3 9/8 to 9/12	"Colliding Culture" IV-VII; "British North America" I, III-IV; "Colonial Society" I, II and IV	N/A
Week 4 9/15 to 9/19	"British North America" II and V; "Colonial Society" III and V-VII	Notebook Check 1 9/17 Historic Figure Selection 9/15
Week 5 9/22 to 9/26	"The American Revolution"	N/A
Week 6 9/29 to 10/3	"A New Nation"	Annotated Bibliography 10/03
Week 7 10/6 to 10/10	"The Early Republic"	N/A
Week 8 10/13 to 10/17	"The Market Revolution"	Notebook Check 2 10/15 Wikipedia Style Article 10/17
Week 9 10/20 to 10/24	"Democracy in America"	Midterm Exam 10/24
Week 10 10/27 to 10/31	"Religion and Reform"	Opening Arguments Critique 10/31
Week 11 11/3 to 11/7	"The Cotton Revolution"	Notebook Check 3 11/5
Week 12 11/10 to 11/14	"Manifest Destiny"	Critique of a Historic Figure 11/14
Week 13 11/17 to 11/21	"Sectional Crisis"	Opening Arguments Defense 11/21
Week 14 11/24 to 11/28	Thanksgiving Break, No Classes	N/A
Week 15 12/1 to 12/5	"The Civil War"	Notebook Check 4 12/01 Defense of a Historic Figure 12/08