



Course Syllabus: Survey of American History to 1865
Prothro Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
HIST 1133 Section 105
Fall 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Brandon Blakeslee

Office: O 217

Office hours: Mon, Wed, Friday: 11:00am – 12:00p; Tues, Thurs. 10:00am-11:00am or by appointment

Office Phone: (940) 397-4150

E-mail: brandon.blakeslee@msutexas.edu

Graduate Assistant: Melody Delamarter

Office: O 230

Office hours: Monday 1:00pm-3:00pm and Wednesday 12:30pm-3:30 pm

Office Phone: N/A

E-mail: mdelamarter0708@my.msutexas.edu

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

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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work, not the individual to whom credit is given).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.

AI use prohibited. The use of generative artificial intelligence tools (including but not limited to ChatGPT, Claude, Google Gemini, and Microsoft Copilot) is prohibited for all work submitted in this course unless I have authorized it for a specific assignment in writing. Submitting AI-generated content as your own work will be treated as a violation of academic integrity. If you are unsure whether a tool you want to use falls under this policy, ask me before using it.

[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

Course Grade – Your grade will be determined out of a possible 1000 total available points that you can accumulate through the following assignments: notebook checks (150 points), exams (250 points), writing assignments (600 points).

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Notebook Checks	150
Pop Quiz	50
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	100
My Unpopular Opinion	100
Historic Figure Selection	50
Wikipedia-like Article	150
Opening Arguments (Defense or Critique)	100
Defense or Critique of a Historic Figure	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

Grade	Points
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).

Quizzes

You will have a midterm exam, a final exam, and two pop quizzes this semester. All exams are open-note and are due in class the day they are assigned. I will provide you the testing material you need, make sure to bring a pen or pencil. You will only be able to use your written notes for the exams, no other notes will be accepted. One pop quiz will take place the first half of the semester and the second one will take place the second half of the semester. I will drop your lowest scoring pop quiz.

Projects Required

There is a major project (worth 60% 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.

Late Work

You will not be able to turn in your notebooks late, but I will accept late work for most other assignments. If you let me know before an assignment is due, I will be happy to grant an extension (just let me know how long you need). If you have missed an assignment, schedule a time to see me and we can make a plan for you to make up that work.

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.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class 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 a 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 classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor 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](#).

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:

Below are a list of the major assignments due for the course. If there is a discrepancy between the dates below and the dates in D2L, let me know but default to the dates in D2L.

Week or Module	Reading Guide	Due Date
Week 1 8/24 to 8/29	No Reading	No assignment due
Week 2 8/31 to 9/5	Chapter 1 "American Origins"	No assignment due
Week 3 9/7 to 9/12	Chapter 2 " Making an Atlantic World"	My Unpopular Opinion due 9/11
Week 4 9/14 to 9/19	Chapter 3 "Colliding Cultures"	Notebook Check 9/16
Week 5 9/21 to 9/26	Chapter 4 "British North America"	No assignment due
Week 6 9/28 to 10/3	Chapter 5 "Colonial Society"	Historic Figure Selection Due 10/2
Week 7 10/5 to 10/10	Chapter 6 "The American Revolution"	Notebook Check 10/7
Week 8 10/12 to 10/17	Chapter 7 "A New Nation"	No assignment due
Week 9 10/19 to 10/24	Chapter 8 "the Early Republic"	Midterm Exam 10/21 Wikipedia Like Article Due 10/23
Week 10 10/26 to 10/31	Chapter 9 "Getting Forward"	No assignment due
Week 11 11/2 to 11/7	Chapter 10 "American Democracy"	Notebook check 11/4 Opening Arguments Due 11/6
Week 12 11/9 to 11/14	Chapter 11 "Growth and Conflict"	No assignment due
Week 13 11/16 to 11/21	Chapter 12 "The National Crisis"	Critique or Defense Due 11/20
Week 14 11/30 to 12/5	Chapter 13 "The Civil War"	Notebook Check 11/30 Early Final Exam 12/4

Note: Tables are already set up for compliance. If you wish to add another table, make sure to do the correct compliance setup for tables which you can find in the [How To – Word Doc ADA Compliance PDF](#).