

American History to 1865

HIST 1133 • Fall 2025

PROFESSOR: Dr. Mary Draper
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OFFICE: O'Donohoe 220
OFFICE HOURS: MW – 1:00pm to 3:00pm
F – 12:00pm to 1:00pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Why did Europeans colonize the Americas in the 1600s, patriots overthrow their mother country in the 1700s, and Americans fight a deadly war against one another in the 1800s? This course examines the history of colonial America and the United States to the end of the Civil War. The first third explores the effects of colonization, including the rise of race-based slavery, the displacement of Indigenous peoples, and the road to revolution. The second third considers how diverse Americans envisioned the meanings and consequences of independence. The final third examines the polarizing politics of slavery which led to the secession of eleven states. It took a deadly civil war to restore the Union, destroy slavery, and emancipate four million individuals. Throughout the semester, we will contemplate what it meant to be free—or unfree—at various moments in American history.

By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- Synthesize historical material about colonial America, the American Revolution, the early republic, the antebellum era, and the era of the Civil War
- Develop an argument that draws on primary sources to answer a historical question
- Identify and evaluate the arguments of primary and secondary sources, paying close attention to language and context
- Communicate effectively by writing clear, well-supported exams and papers

REQUIRED READINGS:

Locke and Wright, eds., *The American Yawp*, Vol. 1: To 1877

- This textbook is available for free online at <http://www.americanyawp.com>. Should you desire a hard copy, you can either print out the chapters (~ 40 pages each) or purchase a print edition in the book store or on [Amazon](#) (currently listed for \$17.94). There is also a PDF available online for e-Readers.

The American Yawp Reader, <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader.html>

- This collection of primary sources is available for free online. The sections correspond with chapters in *The American Yawp*. In addition to accessing these sources via the link above, the primary sources are also available at the end of each chapter under “Primary Sources.” Simply scroll to the end of the chapter. (Note: If you purchase the hard copy of the textbook, you will need to go to the above website to access the sources.)

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

READING ASSIGNMENTS: You are expected to complete all assigned reading, which includes your textbook and primary sources. These should be read differently.

- Read the textbook for major themes and content. Consider the context, causes, and consequences of the people and events it discusses.
- Read the primary sources for perspective. Why is the author writing the source? What does it reveal about the time the author lived? How does it better help you—and historians—understand what people were thinking and doing in the past?

SYLLABUS QUIZ (2%): You will take a **syllabus quiz** the first week of class. It covers that materials found on the syllabus. You are welcome to consult the syllabus as you take it.

READING QUIZZES (15%): There will be **6 reading quizzes** throughout the semester. They are timed (15 minutes) through D2L and consist of 10 multiple choice questions based on the textbook chapter. They are due by midnight on Friday (but will be posted a week prior). A missed quiz will be recorded as a zero. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSES (18%): Throughout the semester you will be required to turn in **6 one-to-two page primary source analyses**. You will complete two PSAs prior to each of your exams. *To earn extra credit, students must turn in both primary source analyses early.* You will receive 1 extra credit point added to the multiple choice portion of your exam. See the schedule below.

- PSA #1 must be turned in by Sunday, Sept. 7 (or by Aug. 31 for extra credit).
- PSA #2 must be turned in by Sunday, Sept. 21 (or by Sept. 14 for extra credit).
- PSA #3 must be turned in by Sunday, Oct. 12 (or by Oct. 5 for extra credit).
- PSA #4 must be turned in by Sunday, Oct. 26 (or by Oct. 19 for extra credit).
- PSA #5 must be turned in by Sunday, Nov. 16 (or by Nov. 9 for extra credit).
- PSA #6 must be turned in by Sunday, Nov. 30 (or by Nov. 23 for extra credit).

Your Primary Source Analysis should respond to *one* primary source in the *American Yawp Reader* (link on D2L, also available under “Primary Sources” at the end of each online chapter). These assignments are to be turned in via D2L during the week that the sources are assigned. *An instruction sheet on how to complete these assignments is on D2L.*

EXAMS (65%): You will take **3 exams** during the semester. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions and short essays. Before each exam you will receive a series of possible question themes that you should spend time researching/preparing. You will be required to answer the short essays in paragraph form. The best answers make arguments with specific evidence. More information about the exam will be circulated the week before the exam.

GRADING SCALE: A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60, F = 59 and below

GRADES:	Syllabus Quiz = 2%	Exam 1 = 20%
	Primary Source Analyses: 18%	Exam 2 = 20%
	Reading quizzes = 15%	Exam 3 = 25%

CLASS STRUCTURE: Think about this class as consisting of three 5-week sections. Each section requires you to take two reading quizzes, submit two primary sources analyses, and take an exam.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT & GENERATIVE AI: *“As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so.”* Academic misconduct—cheating, collusion, plagiarism, 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. Moreover, 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 you use Grammarly, do not let it rewrite sentences for you. That will register as AI.

When can I use Generative AI like ChatGPT in this course?

- The use of Generative AI **is allowed** in this course for the following: brainstorming your ideas and checking grammar.

When must I avoid Generative AI like ChatGPT in this course?

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

Why can't I use Generative AI to write my papers?

- Learning happens as we read, think, organize, summarize, respond, and engage. We don't want machines to do that for us.

DROP DATE: Last Day to drop with a grade of “W” is November 24. You will have the majority of your grade by that point, so you will be able to assess your standing in the class. It is the student's responsibility to visit with their academic advisor prior to withdrawing from a class.

ACCOMMODATIONS: 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. Students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. For more details, please go to.

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS: This class uses D2L. You will find readings, take reading quizzes, and submit papers through D2L. It is your responsibility to have access to a working computer in this class. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings.

TUTORING & ACADEMIC SUPPORT:

TASP offers tutoring assistance. Please contact the TASP, (940) 397-4684, or visit the [TASP homepage](#) for more information.

E-MAIL RESPONSES: I will make every attempt to respond to e-mails sent during the week within one business day. That said, on weekends and evenings, please be patient if I do not respond immediately. If you e-mail me over the weekend, I might not respond until Monday.

NOTICE: Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Look on D2L for any relevant announcements.

E-mail me (mary.draper@msutexas.edu) or visit me during office hours if you have any questions.

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Textbook: www.americanyawp.com/
Primary Source Reader: www.americanyawp.com/reader.html

Note: You should take notes on the lectures and readings throughout the semester. These notes will help you prepare for your exams, reading quizzes, and Primary Source Analyses.

WEEKS 1-5 Aug. 25 thru Sept. 26	From Colonies to States <i>Welcome to the first third of this course! During these five weeks, you must:</i> • Complete a syllabus quiz • Take two reading quizzes • Submit two Primary Source Analyses (PSAs) • Take your first exam
WEEK 1 Aug. 25 Aug. 27 Aug. 29	Readings: • <i>American Yawp</i>, Ch. 1: “The New World”: http://www.americanyawp.com/text/01-the-new-world/ • <i>Primary Sources</i>: http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/the-new-world/ Assignments: • Syllabus quiz due Sunday by midnight. • Turn in PSA #1 on one of the primary sources (this week or next week). Submit by Aug. 31 for extra credit.
WEEK 2 Sep. 1 Sep. 3 Sep. 5	**No class on Monday** Readings: - <i>American Yawp</i>, Ch. 2: “Colliding Cultures”: http://www.americanyawp.com/text/02-colliding-cultures/ - <i>Primary Sources</i>: http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/colliding-cultures/ Assignments: - Reading quiz due Sunday by midnight (chs. 1 & 2).

	- Last week to turn in PSA #1 (if you did not last week). Your PSA#1 is due by Sunday evening.
WEEK 3 Sep. 8 Sep. 10 Sep. 12	Readings: - <i>American Yawp</i>, Ch. 3: “British North America”: http://www.americanyawp.com/text/03-british-north-america/ - <i>Primary Sources</i>: http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/british-north-america/ Assignments: - Turn in PSA #2 on one of the primary sources (this week or next week). Submit by Sept. 14 for extra credit.
WEEK 4 Sep. 15 Sep. 17 Sep. 19	Readings: - <i>American Yawp</i>, Ch. 4: “Colonial Society” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/04-colonial-society/ - <i>Primary Sources</i>: http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/colonial-society/ Assignments: - Reading quiz due Sunday by midnight (chs. 3 & 4). - Last week to turn in PSA #2 (if you did not last week). Your PSA #2 is due by Sunday evening.
WEEK 5 Sep. 22 Sep. 24 Sep. 26	Readings: - <i>American Yawp</i>, Ch. 5: “The American Revolution” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/05-the-american-revolution/ - <i>Primary Sources</i>: http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/the-american-revolution/ Assignments: - Exam posted on Wednesday afternoon, due Sunday by 11:59 pm.
WEEKS 6-10 Sept. 29 thru Oct. 31	The New United States <i>You are now in the second third of the course. During these five weeks, you must:</i> • Take two reading quizzes • Submit two Primary Source Analyses (PSAs) • Take your second exam
WEEK 6 Sep. 29 Oct. 1 Oct. 3	Readings: - <i>American Yawp</i>, Ch. 6: “A New Nation” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/06-a-new-nation/ - <i>Primary Sources</i>: http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/a-new-nation/

	Assignments: - Turn in PSA #3 on one of the primary sources (this week or next week). Submit by Oct. 5 for extra credit.
WEEK 7 Oct. 6 Oct. 8 Oct. 10	Readings: - <i>American Yawp</i>, Ch. 7: “The Early Republic” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/07-the-early-republic/ - <i>Primary Sources</i>: http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/the-early-republic/ Assignments: - Reading quiz due Sunday by midnight (chs. 6 & 7). - Last week to turn in PSA #3 (if you did not last week). Your PSA #3 is due by Sunday evening.
WEEK 8 Oct. 13 Oct. 15 Oct. 17	Readings: - <i>American Yawp</i>, Ch. 8: “The Market Revolution” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/08-the-market-revolution/ - <i>Primary Sources</i>: http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/the-market-revolution/ Assignments: - Turn in PSA #4 on one of the primary sources (this week or next week). Submit by Oct. 19 for extra credit.
WEEK 9 Oct. 20 Oct. 22 Oct. 24	Readings: - <i>American Yawp</i>, Ch. 9: “Democracy in America” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/09-democracy-in-america/ - <i>Primary Sources</i>: http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/democracy-in-america/ Assignments: - Reading quiz due Sunday by midnight (chs. 8 & 9). - Last week to turn in PSA #4 (if you did not last week). Your PSA #4 is due by Sunday evening.
WEEK 10 Oct. 27 Oct. 29 Oct. 31	Readings: - <i>American Yawp</i>, Ch. 10: “Religion and Reform” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/10-religion-and-reform/ - <i>Primary Sources</i>: http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/religion-and-reform/ Assignments: - Exam posted on Wednesday afternoon, due Sunday by 11:59 pm.

WEEKS 11-15 Nov. 3 thru Dec. 6	Slavery and the Road to Disunion <i>You are now in the last third of the course. During these five weeks, you must:</i> • Take two reading quizzes • Submit two Primary Source Analyses (PSAs) • Take your last exam
WEEK 11 Nov. 3 Nov. 5 Nov. 7	Readings: - <i>American Yawp</i>, Ch. 11: “The Cotton Revolution” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/11-the-cotton-revolution/ - <i>Primary Sources</i>: http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/the-cotton-revolution/ Assignments: - Turn in PSA #5 on one of the primary sources (this week or next week). Submit by Nov. 9 for extra credit.
WEEK 12 Nov. 10 Nov. 12 Nov. 14	Readings: - <i>American Yawp</i>, Ch. 12: “Manifest Destiny” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/12-manifest-destiny/ - <i>Primary Sources</i>: http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/manifest-destiny/ Assignments: - Reading quiz due Sunday by midnight (chs. 11 & 12). - Last week to turn in PSA #5 (if you did not last week). Your PSA #5 is due by Sunday evening.
WEEK 13 Nov. 17 Nov. 19 Nov. 21	Readings: - <i>American Yawp</i>, Ch. 13: “The Sectional Crisis” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/13-the-sectional-crisis/ - <i>Primary Sources</i>: http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/the-sectional-crisis/ Assignments: - Turn in PSA #6 on one of the primary sources (this week or next week). Submit by Nov. 23 for extra credit.
WEEK 14 Nov. 24 Nov. 26 Nov. 28	** No class on Wednesday or Friday** Readings: - Catch up on your reading for this class. - <i>Primary Sources</i>: http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/the-civil-war/ Assignments: - Reading quiz due Sunday by midnight (ch. 13).

	- Last week to turn in PSA #6 (if you haven't already). Your PSA #6 is due by Sunday evening.
WEEK 15 Dec. 1 Dec. 3 Dec. 5	Readings: - <i>American Yawp</i>, Ch. 14: "The Civil War" http://www.americanyawp.com/text/14-the-civil-war/ - Prep for your third exam. Assignments: - Study for Exam #3
FINALS WEEK	Take Home Final Exam due (Date TBA)