



Course Syllabus: American History since 1865

Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences

HIST 1233-X10

Fall 2026

Contact Information

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Office: OD 223

Office hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (9:00-10:00 A.M.); Tuesdays (8:00-10:00 A.M.); and by appointment

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Course Description

The instructor has designed this course first and foremost with the intention of providing her students with a basic understanding of U.S. history since the Civil War. For obvious reasons, the course is intended to be foundational rather than comprehensive. It is a course from which further exploration of the nation's past may be launched. In addition to providing students with a broad knowledge of history, the course will help students analyze people, places, and events. The course design also includes interpretive techniques that help students better understand what it is that historians do.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty: An American History* 8th edition, volume 2

Eric Foner, *Voices of Freedom* 8th edition, volume 2

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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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](#) In this class, academic dishonesty also includes the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). While other professors may condone or encourage the use of AI, it is NOT permitted in this class and will result in a zero.

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

This course includes fourteen weekly quizzes, fourteen discussion posts, one movie assignment, and two exams.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Quizzes (14)	25%
Discussions (14)	15%
Movie Assignment	15%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Quizzes

Students are required to take fourteen weekly quizzes. The instructions are as follows: 1) Once you are on our D2L classroom dashboard, click on "Assessments" near the top of the page. 2) Under the drop-down list, click on "Tests." You should see a list of numbered quizzes. 3) Click on a quiz to take it. The window to take each quiz opens each Thursday at 6:30 A.M. and closes each Friday at 11:30 P.M. You will have ten minutes to take each quiz.

Movie Assignment

Students are required to write a 5-6-page film critique on *Trumbo* (2015). Here are the instructions: 1) Once you are on our D2L classroom dashboard, click on "Assessments" near the top of the page. 2) Under the drop-down list, click on "Assignments." You should see a dropbox entitled *Trumbo*. 3) On or by the due date—October 21—click on the arrow next to the dropbox and upload your movie review in either a word doc or PDF. 4) Note, your film critique must be at least five full pages and no more than six pages. Each critique must be in 12-point font, Times New Roman and double-spaced. The margins should be 1 inch on the top and bottom and 1.25 inches on the left and right. More in-depth instructions can be found on D2L.

Discussion Posts

During the weeks with an assigned textbook chapter, each student will initiate a discussion on one of the primary documents in the assigned chapter of your reader *Voices of Freedom*. "Discussions" can be found on our D2L classroom dashboard under "Communication." Conversation is strongly encouraged. These fourteen weekly discussions are worth 15% of your overall average. Each discussion post will be assessed on a 0-100 scale, and all will be averaged to deduce your overall discussion grade. You are welcome to start a discussion any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. However, your weekly discussion should be posted by 11:30 P.M. Thursday at the latest. This is to allow your classmates to comment or replay to your post by 11:30 P.M. Friday. Further instructions are as follows: 1) Your entry needs to be at least two paragraphs. 2) You must comment on at least two of your classmates' discussion posts. These comments need to be substantive, not something effortless like "I agree." 3) Remember "netiquette." Be respectful of classmates during discussions. If a classmate's comment on your post includes a question, please take the time to answer. 4) When analyzing a primary document, remember the following components: Who is the individual or who are the individuals behind the document? What is the document about? When was the document written? Where was the document written? Why was the document written? What is the document's significance and why does it matter?

Mid-Term Exam

Students are required to take a midterm exam. The instructions are as follows: 1) Once you are on our D2L classroom dashboard, click on "Assessments" near the top of the page. 2) Under the drop-down list, click on "Tests" and you will see the midterm. You will take the midterm, which consists of 50 multiple choice questions, on October 7. The window to take the midterm opens at 6:30 A.M. and closes at 11:30 P.M. You will have 50 minutes to take the midterm.

Final Exam

Students are required to take a final exam. The instructions are as follows: 1) Once you are on our D2L classroom dashboard, click on "Assessments" near the top of the page. 2) Under the drop-down list, click on "Tests" and you will see the final exam. You will take the final exam, which consists of 50 multiple choice questions and is not comprehensive, on December 9. The window to take the final exam opens at 8:00 A.M. and closes at 5:00 P.M. You will have 75 minutes to take the final exam.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be posted under "Content" in our D2L classroom dashboard. Click on "Extra Credit" to see the options. You may attend one or all. Attending one of these extra credit opportunities will replace your lowest quiz (at the time of the event) with a 100.

Make Up Work/Tests

Legitimate excuses are official university absences, documented illnesses, and/or close family deaths. Students must provide the necessary proof like university paperwork, doctor's excuses, or funeral remembrance cards. The acceptability of any other excuse will be at the discretion of the instructor. For such an excuse, the instructor will deduct a letter grade for every day an assessment is late.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: August 24-27
- Deadline to file for graduation: September 21 for December graduation and October 5 for May graduation
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 23
- 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 must login to our D2L classroom dashboard each week in order to complete the mandatory assessments.

Computer Requirements

This 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 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!!*** 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](#).

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Instructor Class Policies

Be civil in any discussions. Debate is healthy but keep it respectful. Be mindful of deadlines.

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 Student Wellness Center, (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](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

Grade Appeal Process

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:

Please pay close attention to each week's assigned reading and assessment(s).

Week or Module	Assigned Readings	Due Date
Week 1 August 24-28	Readings: Foner, <i>Give Me Liberty</i> , Chapter 15; and Foner, <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Chapter 15	Quiz 1 and Discussion 1 due by August 28
Week 2 August 31-September 4	Readings: Foner, <i>Give Me Liberty</i> , Chapter 16; and Foner, <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Chapter 16	Quiz 2 and Discussion 2 due by September 4

Week or Module	Assigned Readings	Due Date
Week 3 September 7-11 (September 7 is Labor Day)	Readings: Foner, <i>Give Me Liberty</i> , Chapter 17; and Foner, <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Chapter 17	Quiz 3 and Discussion 3 due by September 11
Week 4 September 14-18	Readings: Foner, <i>Give Me Liberty</i> , Chapter 18; and Foner, <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Chapter 18	Quiz 4 and Discussion 4 due by September 18
Week 5 September 21-25	Readings: Foner, <i>Give Me Liberty</i> , Chapter 19; and Foner, <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Chapter 19	Quiz 5 and Discussion 5 due by September 25
Week 6 September 28-October 2	Readings: Foner, <i>Give Me Liberty</i> , Chapter 20; and Foner, <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Chapter 20	Quiz 6 and Discussion 6 due by October 2
Week 7 October 5-9	Readings: Foner, Give Me Liberty , Chapter 21; and Foner, <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Chapter 21	Midterm due by October 7; and Quiz 7 and Discussion 7 due by October 9
Week 8 October 12-16	Readings: Foner, <i>Give Me Liberty</i> , Chapter 22; and Foner, <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Chapter 22	Quiz 8 and Discussion 8 due by October 16
Week 9 October 19-23	Readings: Foner, <i>Give Me Liberty</i> , Chapter 23; and Foner, <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Chapter 23	Trumbo Movie Assignment due by October 21; and Quiz 9 and Discussion 9 due by October 23
Week 10 October 26-30	Readings: Foner, <i>Give Me Liberty</i> , Chapter 24; and Foner, <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Chapter 24	Quiz 10 and Discussion 10 due by October 30
Week 11 November 2-6	Readings: Foner, <i>Give Me Liberty</i> , Chapter 25; and Foner, <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Chapter 25	Quiz 11 and Discussion 11 due by November 6
Week 12 November 9-13	Readings: Foner, <i>Give Me Liberty</i> , Chapter 26; and Foner, <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Chapter 26	Quiz 12 and Discussion 12 due by November 13
Week 13 November 16-20	Readings: Foner, <i>Give Me Liberty</i> , Chapter 27; and Foner, <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Chapter 27	Quiz 13 and Discussion 13 due by November 20

Week or Module	Assigned Readings	Due Date
Week 14 November 23-27 (Thanksgiving Break is November 26-27)	Readings: None this week	Nothing due
Week 15 November 30- December 4	Readings: Foner, <i>Give Me Liberty</i> , Chapter 28; and Foner, <i>Voices of Freedom</i> , Chapter 28	Quiz 14 and Discussion 14 due by December 4
Finals Week	Final Exam	Final Exam is on December 9