



Course Syllabus: Survey American History since 1865
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
HIST 1233 Section X30
Summer I 2025

Contact Information

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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 the themes and events that dominated the American past since the Civil War. For obvious reasons, she has not designed the course to be comprehensive, but rather foundational. It is a course from which further exploration of this nation's history may be launched. In addition to providing students with a broad knowledge of U.S. History, the course will help students critically analyze historical events. The course design also includes interpretive techniques to help students better understand what it is that historians do.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History*, 7th ed., vol. 2
Eric Foner, *Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History*, 7th ed., vol. 2

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, plagiarism, and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). While other professors may condone or even encourage the use of AI, it is NOT permitted in this class. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Grading

In this course, students will take five weekly quizzes, post five weekly discussions, write one movie assignment, and complete two exams.

Table 1: Grade Breakdown

Assignments	Percentage
Quizzes (5)	25%
Weekly Discussions (5)	15%
Movie Assignment	15%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	25%
Total Points	100%

Table 2: Letter Grade Scale

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

Weekly Discussions

Every week, each student will initiate a discussion on one of the assigned documents in *Voices of Freedom*. "Discussions" can be found on D2L under "Communication." Conversation is strongly encouraged. These five weekly discussions are worth 15% of your overall average. Each will be assessed on a 0-100 scale and all five 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 reply to your post by 11:30 P.M. Friday. Further instructions are as follows:

1. Your weekly entry may be on any of the primary source documents in the assigned chapters of *Voices of Freedom*.
2. Your entry needs to be at least two paragraphs. Each of your paragraphs needs at least five sentences.
3. You must comment on at least two of your classmates' entries. These comments need to be substantive, not something effortless like "I agree."
4. Remember "netiquette." Be respectful of classmates when discussing subject matter, some of which is sensitive. If a classmate's comment on your post includes a question, please take the time to answer.
5. 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?

Quizzes

There will be a 20-question quiz each week. Questions are derived from both your textbook Give Me Liberty and your reader Voices of Freedom. Students will take each quiz via D2L by each Friday night at 11:30 P.M. Here are the instructions:

1. Log onto D2L.
2. Click on the 9-block square at the top of the page and find our class. Click on it.
3. Once you are on our classroom dashboard, click on "Assessments" near the top of the page.
4. Under the drop-down list, click on "Tests." You should see all five quizzes.
5. To take a certain quiz, click on the arrow next to it. Students will have 30 minutes to complete each quiz once they begin testing. Each question is worth 5 points.

Movie Assignment

You will write a 5-6-page essay on the movie *Pleasantville* (1998). Further instructions are posted on D2L. To upload your movie assignment, log onto our classroom D2L dashboard, look under "Assessments" and then click "Assignments." You should see a dropbox entitled "Pleasantville." You may submit your essay any time until 11:30 P.M. on the due date.

Exams

This course includes two exams, a midterm and a final, both of which will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. Students will take these exams via D2L. The instructions are as follows:

1. Log onto D2L
2. Click on the 9-block square at the top of the page and find our class. Click on it.
3. Once you are on our classroom dashboard, click on "Assessments" near the top of the page.
4. Under the drop-down list, click on "Tests." You will see "Midterm" and "Final."
5. On the scheduled date, click on the arrow next to "Midterm" or "Final" to begin. You will have 90 minutes. Study guides are available under "Content."

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit opportunities.

Late Work

Ten points will be deducted for every day a quiz, exam, or assignment is late.

Make Up Work/Tests

A valid excuse is required if a student expects to make up missed work.

Important Dates

Deadline to file for graduation: June 23

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" June 18

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

For us to have a successful semester, your full participation is required.

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 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 which 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](#).

Instructor Class Policies

- Online etiquette is a must.
- Be civil in your discussion interactions. Debate is healthy but, keep it respectful.
- Avoid all caps.
- 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 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 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

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

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 June 2-6	Readings: <i>Liberty</i> , Chapters 15-16; and <i>Voices</i> , Chapters 15-16 Assignments: Weekly Discussion on <i>Voices</i> ; and Quiz 1	Quiz 1 due by June 6
Week 2 June 9-13	Readings: <i>Liberty</i> , Chapters 17-19; and <i>Voices</i> , Chapters 17-19 Assignments: Weekly Discussion on <i>Voices</i> ; Movie Assignment; and Quiz 2	Movie Assignment due by June 11 Quiz 2 due by June 13
Week 3 June 16-20	Readings: <i>Liberty</i> , Chapters 20-22; and <i>Voices</i> , Chapters 20-22 Assignments: Weekly Discussion on <i>Voices</i> ; Midterm; and Quiz 3	Midterm due by June 18 Quiz 3 due by June 20
Week 4 June 23-27	Readings: <i>Liberty</i> , Chapters 23-25; and <i>Voices</i> , Chapters 23-25 Assignments: Weekly Discussion on <i>Voices</i> ; and Quiz 4	Quiz 4 due by June 27
Week 5 June 30-July 3	Readings: <i>Liberty</i> , Chapters 26-28; and <i>Voices</i> , Chapters 26-28 Assignments: Weekly Discussion on <i>Voices</i> ; Quiz 5; and Final Exam	Quiz 5 due by July 3 Final Exam due by July 3