

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

SYLLABUS HST 121 (004):

Survey of United States History to 1877

Dr. George R. Carson (Strong Hall 0203) 2:30—3:20 pm MWF

Office Hours, each Monday at 3:30 to 4:30pm, Strong Hall

Contacts: GRCarson@MissouriState.edu; 417-413-7014.

Course Objectives:

To study the formation and development of the colonies in America, the founding of the republic of the United States, the political, constitutional, social, and economic development of the United States to 1877, with emphases on regional, ethnic, and cultural diversity.

This course is a freshman level survey course that partially satisfies requirements of the Public Affairs section of the General Education Program. The History Department's goal in offering American history is to teach:

1. Students to think critically about diverse interpretations of historical developments;
2. The diversity and appreciation of Native and immigrants' cultural values, gender, class and ethnic differences as the foundation for advancing MSU's Public Affairs mission;
3. How present-day situations have grown out of past events, such as the American Revolution, Industrialization, World War II, and the Civil Rights Movement, which is essential for participation in America's democracy;
4. The evolution of political, constitutional and social systems in the United States and the State of Missouri as required by MO Senate Bill 262;
5. How past events shape current possibilities for individuals in American society.

Textbook: check with the MSU Bookstore for options on the book, *The American Promise*, volume ONE, the eighth edition. The main author is James Roark, ISBN is 978-1-319-20889-9 [published by Bedford & St. Martins, MacMillan Learning].

Students need to have a computer or other device for entering MSU's Blackboard online platform. There will be assignments, information, and study aids available only there. Dates for assignments are posted (rarely are late papers accepted). Please do not attempt to e-mail attachments that must be submitted in Blackboard.

Select notations and policies about this class:

1. Please be on time for the class.
2. Show respect for your fellow class members.
3. No recording our lectures or videos.
4. Contribute to Group activities and support your Group Team.
5. Sign the Attendance Sheet while you are here (not for someone else).
6. Masking is still required while in the building. If you are feeling ill or display COVID symptoms, do not come to class.
7. If you must miss a class-time, it is your responsibility to inquire of your Group members and the Professor about the day's work. Most things cannot be made up and lectures cannot be repeated but checking the Slide sets and other items online will help.

General Class Policies

You are treated as a professional in this course. Reading the directions and grading criteria provided for each assignment is the key to understanding how you will be graded. Following those directions is your key to doing well in the course. Grades and feedback will be available through Blackboard.

1. Students are required to have and use their Missouri State e-mail.
2. Be familiar with the Missouri State policies addressing students

3. Cell Phones: the Office of Academic Affairs prohibits the use of cell phones, pagers or similar communication devices during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in silent mode and cannot be taken out during class-time.
4. You have various ways of getting points during class-time (quizzes, discussion groups, Exams, etc.). If you are absent, most of these cannot be made up. With a good excuse for missing an Exam day, you may be allowed to make these up (Exams are worth at least 100 points).
5. Letter Grades. An A is earned by averaging at least 90% of assessments; B is 80%; C is 70%; D is 60%; 59% and below is F.

Gaining Points in the Course

Your points for the course (total of 770 points) come from the following assignment blocks.

1. EXAMS (450 total points available). The three earliest Exams are worth 100 points each; the Final is worth 150 points. If a Make-up Exam (only for Exams 1 through 3) is allowed, it may not be the same one given in class. See the Instructor for details.

2. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (100 points). Three short writings are each worth 30 points each (information will be posted online), requiring 3-4 pages each. No late papers are allowed.

These papers are not group responses or group projects. The papers should reflect the individual students' thoughts and understanding of the topics addressed. All outside sources and textbook ideas must be properly cited. Quotes and concepts from websites must be identified by the student in a proper way.

In addition, there will be 1 or 2 in-class video response papers worth 10-15 points each (these cannot be done outside class). You must follow the Instruction sheets to get points.

3. GROUP WORK ACTIVITIES (20 points). Discussions and reports done inside and

outside of class. There may also be an assessment done by individuals on the members of their group; this is a small part of the average. Up to 10 points each Semester half. When students miss seated Discussion Groups, their average is deducted by a half point each time; those who do not participate in the Outside Group written projects a zero will be calculated into their average. More info in class.

4. INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION (20 points). An average of the student's participation in class-time. This includes general participation, a purview of absences and tardiness, contributions to class-time, attentiveness in class-time, etc. Up to 10 points each Semester half. More info given in class-time and online.

5. QUICK QUIZZES [QUESTIONS/ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK] (100 points). Most of these are worth 10 points each. Various responses to class material or textbook topics on paper accrue points. You must be in class for these: they cannot be made up.

6. CLASS-TIME QUIZZES (80 points). Quiz performances are totaled at 20 points each. Four quizzes are given. There will be one "Bonus Pre-Quiz." These cannot be made up.

7. EXTRA-CREDIT. On occasion, there may be some bonus points available with Exams or Quizzes. There may be other times some points are available: watch for these (they will be announced). Large papers or projects are not available to individuals. Please study intensely and focus on textbook, terms, class notes, etc.

Schedule for the Semester

PART 1: Chapters 1 through 4 (Beginnings, Explorations and Settlements)

The First Class is on Wednesday, January 19.

Pre-Quiz: Friday, February 4 (This first quiz is for Bonus points; no Makeups available))

Quiz 1: Monday, February 7 (No Makeups on quizzes)

Exam 1: Wednesday, February 9

Monday, February 21 is President's Day (no class)

PART 2: Chapters 5 through 8 (From Puritan to Yankee, Anglican to American)

Reading-Writing Assignment RW1 deadline online: Wednesday, February 23 (Midnight).

Quiz 2: Monday, March 7.

Exam 2 (Mid-Term): Wednesday, March 9.

March 14—20 is SPRING BREAK

PART 3: Chapters 9 through 12 (From Jefferson & Jackson to James K. Polk)

SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT RW2 online Deadline: Wednesday, March 30.

Quiz 3: Friday, April 8

Exam 3: Wednesday, April 13

Friday, April 15 is Spring Holiday (no class)

Monday, April 18 is the last day to Drop classes

PART 4: Chapters 13 through 16 (Slavery, Parties, Civil War, etc.)

SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENT RW3 online Deadline: Wednesday, April 27.

Quiz 4: Wednesday, May 11.

Friday, May 13 is Missouri State Study Day (no class)

Final Exam (Exam 4): Wednesday, May 18, 1:15—3:15pm