



## HST 122: U.S History Since 1877 – Course Syllabus

This syllabus contains the information you need to navigate the course. ALWAYS REFER TO THE SYLLABUS FIRST TO LOCATE THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS. If you cannot find the answer to your question in the syllabus, contact me.

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### Contact information

**Instructor:** Lynn M. Lansdown

**Email:** lmlansdown@missouristate.edu

**Email is the BEST way to reach me.** Use your MSU email when sending email correspondence to me. I will do my best to respond to emails in 24-36 hours.

***Email response schedule***

Monday-Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST (remember, I'm unavailable during class!)

Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. CST

**Telephone:** 417.836.5511 (History Department) – Leave Message

**Office Location:** STRONG 430

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays virtual hours 10-11 a.m. and by appointment.

*Because of the continued issues with COVID-19, my office hours are virtual this semester.* Email me to request a meeting – we can determine from that point what type of correspondence format (email, Teams chat, video, etc.) is required.

*Masks and social distancing are required* if you wish to meet face-to-face. Email me or see me before/after class to set up an appointment.

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### About the course

U.S. History Since 1877 (HST 122) is a lecture-based general education course. No prerequisite courses are required; however, the course requires college-level reading, writing, and note-taking skills.

#### Course description

General Education Course (Public Affairs/American Studies). Covers modernization of the United States and its role in world affairs from the late 19th century to the present. 3 (3-0)

#### Course format/modality

Seated, Blackboard enhanced. What exactly does this mean?

- Lecture content is delivered IN CLASS, not online, unless the course has been moved online temporarily because of a public health, university-mandated, or other emergency situation.
- You must attend class to obtain information regarding lecture content, to successfully complete assignments, to participate in class activities, and to be kept current on all course announcements.
  - If you cannot attend class, designate a classmate (a “study buddy”) to take notes and keep you informed of any class announcements.
- Your regular attendance and participation are expected whether we are on campus or online.

## Course objectives/learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast major figures and movements from the periods of U.S. history under study
2. Recognize important developments and trends that shaped American society from 1877 to the present
3. Apply various types of history – biographical, political, diplomatic, constitutional, intellectual, social, and cultural – to provide a complex understanding of U.S. history
4. Analyze a variety of historical materials and relate these materials to key issues covered in this course
5. Demonstrate understanding of U.S. history at the survey level through exams, assignments, and/or projects

## Required course texts/materials

### Textbooks

This course does not require that you purchase a textbook. Instead, lecture handouts and other course readings are provided either through our Blackboard course or as class handouts. You are responsible for ensuring you have access to these documents and to alert me if you do not.

**READ THE LECTURE HANDOUTS BEFORE** the class session in which the topic is to be discussed. This will help you better understand the concepts and topics we cover and follow lectures more easily. You will also use the handouts to complete assignments.

### Materials

At least one paper notebook and writing utensils (pens and/or pencils) are required in class at all times. Access to a computer is required for online assignments, and you may bring a laptop or tablet to class to take notes.

## Course expectations: evaluation criteria and assignments

### Course points and letter grade equivalents

Your final grade for this course will be based on the following point breakdown.

A Category	B Category	C Category	D Category	F Category
A = 380-400	B+ = 347-359	C+ = 307-319	D+ = 260-279	F = 0-239
A- = 360-379	B = 333-346	C = 293-306	D = 240-259	
	B- = 320-332	C- = 280-292		

### Course assignment details

Discussions	120 points
Reading/Analysis Assignments	260 points
Attendance	<u>20 points</u>
Total:	400 points

**Discussions – 120 points.** Students will be organized into groups and will complete four (4) discussions during the semester. Discussions are worth thirty (30) points each. We will try to conduct these in class, but because of current COVID-19 circumstances, these may be conducted in Blackboard. *Meets learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 4.*

**Reading/Analysis Assignments – 260 points.** Students will complete four (4) assignments at sixty-five (65) points each. These assignments might be a combination of questions over lectures or readings, short answers, and/or essays. These assignments will be completed online in Blackboard unless other arrangements have been made. *Meets learning outcomes 1, 2, 4, and 5.*

**Participation and Attendance – 20 points.** Your Participation/Attendance grade is subject to evaluation and possible point deductions based on serious violations of these basic standards of decent conduct.

- respect for the learning process and for the classroom environment
  - behavior is attentive and not distracting to classmates and the instructor
  - student takes notes and pays attention
  - student is respectful to classmates and instructor
- whether there is frequent or excessive unexcused tardiness and/or frequent early departure

Any behavior considered by the instructor or by other students to be distracting (any non-class oriented behavior including, but not limited to, social media activity, unauthorized use of technology, gaming, web surfing, excessive talking, online abusive or disrespectful language/behavior, etc.) will result in penalty deductions from the student's Participation/Attendance grade. Egregious and/or repeated disruptive behavior could result in a zero Participation/Attendance grade for the student and could possibly be subject to further discipline.

### Absences

You are allowed two (2) "free" absences without penalty deduction in this class (this equates to one week of class). Beginning with your third absence and thereafter, two (2) points will be deducted from your Participation/Attendance grade for each absence.

**Communication with your instructor is imperative to succeeding in this course.** You are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible if you experience significant family and/or other compelling circumstances (such as major illness/hospitalization or a death in the immediate family). The sooner you communicate with me, the sooner we can discuss available options to ensure your continued positive participation in the course.

Active military/National Guard and University athletes will not be subject to point deductions for absences related to their duties, provided they present full documentation. If you are active military/National Guard or a University athlete, consult with me regarding how you can provide this documentation.

### Missing class if you are sick or must quarantine

Call Mager's or your primary care provider to schedule an appointment if you are sick. They can advise you when it is safe for you to return to class. If you are sick or are required to quarantine, **you are responsible** for notifying me as soon as possible that you will not be in class.

Remember also that **you are responsible** for completing all assignments on time and for keeping up with lectures, readings, and coursework. Get a "study buddy" classmate to help with any in-class notes you miss. Course policies about makeups apply if you miss an assignment.

### Seeing your grades and questions about grades

We use Blackboard in this course for announcements, most assignments, and grades. You can see your grade results and feedback in the MyGrades feature in Blackboard. Raw scores (points) are posted on Blackboard, from which Blackboard tries to calculate equivalent letter grades and percentages. Blackboard is not me – my calculations for your grades are more precise and current than Blackboard. In accordance with FERPA, any time you wish to discuss your grade status, ask me and I will compile that information and discuss it with you confidentially.

### Makeups/late assignments

**Makeup assignments will be completed IN CLASS and ON PAPER.** Makeup day will be announced later in the semester.

Making up an assignment does not mean "re-doing" an assignment. Makeups are for when you do not complete an assignment. There are no options for re-doing an assignment on which you did poorly (i.e., you got a bad grade).

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE regarding missed assignments before midterm**

Keep in mind that if you miss assignments before midterm grades are calculated, your missed assignments will be recorded as "0" because you have not earned the points yet. Consequently, this will have an adverse effect on your midterm grade for this course.

**Reading/Analysis Makeups.** You may make up one (1) missed Reading/Analysis assignment during make up day. You will not be allowed to make up more than one Reading/Analysis assignment. If you miss more than one assignment, you will only be able to make up the first assignment you missed. Any other missed assignment will receive a zero (0) grade. The content of the makeup assignments will be different from the regularly scheduled ones but will still match the assignment criteria and assessment standards.

**Discussions.** You may make up one (1) missed Discussion assignment during make up day by writing a reflective essay on a topic/question determined by the instructor. You will not be allowed to make up more than one Discussion assignment. If you miss more than one assignment, you will only be able to make up the first assignment you missed. Any other missed assignment will receive a zero (0) grade.

### In-class work

Any work conducted during seated class meetings, including impromptu writings, discussions, pop quizzes, or other activities, cannot be made up under any circumstances. I reserve the right to change the syllabus, the assignments, and the schedule, and I reserve the right to conduct quizzes and other in-class activities without prior notice.

### Extra credit

Abundant and generous extra credit point opportunities are built into nearly every assignment. In addition, I reward extraordinary responses and effort in assignments with “quality” extra credit points, so it pays for you to come to class and to do your best work. **DO NOT ASK FOR EXTRA CREDIT.**

## Technology for this course

You should know if your computer’s capabilities, Internet access, Blackboard, and other technology tools are compatible with Missouri State’s computer requirements. The link below will direct you to that information. Please note that the computer technology page is often updated to reflect current technologies, so it is a good idea to visit this page at least once a semester to ensure you have all the appropriate required computer technology.

<https://missouristate.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1931/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=107376>

### Make sure you....

- Check your browser for Blackboard compatibility
- Verify that your computer operates Google Chrome and/or Mozilla Firefox browsers
  - **Only use these two browsers for any online work**
- Install Microsoft Office 365 (free to all registered MSU students) on your computer
  - Make sure your computer can operate Microsoft Teams
- Verify your computer can support video and audio
- Verify your computer has a webcam
- Download and install the Respondus Lockdown Browser app on your computer

#### Important note regarding tablets

While you may want to use a Chromebook, iPad, or other tablet, these devices should be considered supplemental only. They are not sufficient to complete all necessary course work. Use a laptop or desktop to complete assignments for this class.

## Course policies

The following policies are specific to this course: communication, cell phone and other technology usage in class, intellectual/fair use, and academic integrity.

### Communication

#### How you communicate with me

Email is always the best way to reach me: [lmansdown@missouristate.edu](mailto:lmansdown@missouristate.edu). Always use your Missouri State email in your communications with me. My schedule for answering emails is Monday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. CST. I will do my best to respond to emails in 24-36 hours.

If you ask a question that can easily be answered by reading the syllabus or assignment schedule, I may not reply or my reply may be delayed. Always check the syllabus and schedule first to see if the answer to your question is there. If it isn't, then email me. Communicate in a cordial, courteous, and professional manner.

At this time, masks and social distancing are required for all in-person meetings with me.

#### How I communicate with you

In addition to announcements in class, I also use Blackboard to post information regarding class. **You are responsible** for checking your Missouri State University email and the Announcements section of Blackboard regularly to remain informed about our class.

You can have announcements sent to you as a text message using the Blackboard app. Follow these instructions: <https://missouristate.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1931/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=91391>.

For unusual situations that require video conferencing or online chat, we use Microsoft Teams. If you are unfamiliar with this feature, I will send instructions.

### Disruptions to our regular routine

Any number of situations could prevent us from meeting for class on campus. Should a disruption to our regular routine occur, I will communicate with you using Blackboard Announcements on how we will conduct class. **You are responsible** for checking your email and Blackboard Announcements frequently to remain informed during any situation that disrupts our regular routine.

### Cell phone policy and recordings

**CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY (backpack, pocket, etc.) during class. THIS IS A UNIVERSITY POLICY.**

- Phones should NOT be out on the desk/tables during class
- Point deductions from Participation/Attendance grade if phones are in use in class except for a class activity
- No photos, videos, or audio recordings allowed unless mandated by Disability Services (documentation required) or with instructor permission
- Additional technology use that distracts students and/or the instructor could result in point deductions from your Participation/Attendance Grade

**The Office of the Provost prohibits the use by students of cell phones, pagers, PDAs, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes.** All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. This includes the use of recording devices (audio and/or video), which could be distracting to other students.

Please visit with the instructor if you have a documented accommodation that requires assistive technology.

### Intellectual property, copyright, and fair use

This course may contain copyrighted material, the use of which may not have been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. This material is available in an effort to explain issues relevant to the course or to illustrate the use and benefits of an educational tool. The material contained in this course is distributed without profit for research and educational purposes. Only small portions of the original work are being used and thus could not be used easily to duplicate the original work. This should constitute a 'fair use' of any such copyrighted material (referenced and provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law). If you wish to use any copyrighted material from this course for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain expressed permission from the copyright owner.

Lecture notes for this course are provided as a courtesy to you. They are the instructor's intellectual property and, therefore, distribution of these materials to third parties is prohibited. **Distribution or sale of recordings or other course materials is prohibited without the written permission of the instructor and other students who may be recorded. Distribution without permission is a violation of copyright law and the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (Sections 4.6, 4.8, 4.9).** If a student is found to violate this policy, the Dean of Students will be notified, and the courtesy of providing course lecture notes for the entire class will be immediately revoked.

### Academic integrity

***This course has zero tolerance for academic dishonesty.*** No student shall engage in behavior that, in the judgment of the instructor, can be construed as academic dishonesty. This can include, but is not limited to, plagiarism, copying, unauthorized assistance, unauthorized acquisition of tests or other academic materials, and/or distribution of these materials. This policy applies to all students who aid, abet, or attempt such behavior. Consequences for plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and can include 1) an F for the work involved 2) an F in the course 3) referral to college authorities for further discipline.

## Succeeding in this course

You have to study and learn so that you can make up your own mind about history and everything else, but you can't make up an empty mind. Stock your mind, stock your mind. It is your house of treasure and no one in the world can interfere with it.

--From *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt

- Read or at least skim the lecture handouts for that week before coming to class. Why? This familiarizes you with the content and makes it easier for you to take notes during lecture. You'll understand concepts and topics better when I lecture on them because you'll already be familiar with the basics or the general context.
- Take notes during lecture. You will not do well on assignments if you do not take notes during lectures.
- Always have paper and writing utensils on hand in case we do extra credit or other activities in class.
- Stay on schedule with your readings: lecture handouts, documents, primary sources, and videos.
- Follow instructions. They are there for several reasons: to keep things fair for ALL of you, to make sure my assessment of you is accurate, to help me identify where you may be struggling with a concept, and (believe it or not) to make things easier for you. I'm not out to "getcha" and I don't use "gotcha" tactics.
- Communicate. Tell me immediately if you encounter a situation that is going to make it extremely difficult for you to come to class, complete an assignment, or remain in the course. I can't help you if I don't know.
- Come to class. Overwhelmingly, the only reason a student does not succeed in my class is because he/she/they did not attend class.
- Be curious. Stock your mind, stock your mind. The more you know, the less afraid you'll be.

## University policy statements

For all official university policies related to classroom instruction, access the link in our Blackboard Course or follow the [University Syllabus Policy Statements](#) link. The purpose of University Policy Statements is to support teaching and learning on the Missouri State campus. The established policies are in place to ensure that students, faculty, and staff may pursue academic endeavors with as few obstacles as possible. As a student at Missouri State University, you are a part of the university community. Therefore, you are responsible for familiarizing yourself with [University Syllabus Policy Statements](#). These policies cover topics such as nondiscrimination, disability accommodation, academic integrity, among many others.

## Certification requirements for Missouri teachers

For information regarding certification for history teachers, refer to the PDF document *MoState\_TeacherCertReqs* located in our Blackboard Course. **This document applies only to history education majors.**