

HISTORY 121 SYLLABUS AND POLICY STATEMENTS

STEPHANIE O'NEAL

Contact Information: Office Hours, Strong 430, 10:00 – 11:00 MWF

Email: stephanieoneal@missouristate.edu or for urgent matters, call me at home: 417-742-3919.

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

Attendance: Because it affects performance, **20** points of the grade total are for attendance. Absence for University-sanctioned activities, illness, family or other compelling circumstances **is excused**. **Unexcused** absences in excess of three will each result in 5 points lost from that 20.

Tardiness: is sometimes unavoidable. If you are late, you must see me after class to be counted as present.

Evaluation: your grade is based on two quizzes (60 points total), two longer exams (150 points total), a comprehensive final focused primarily on #13 through #16 (100 points), and essays based on Constitutional Rights and the Douglass book (70 points total), and—of course--attendance (20). Total = **400** possible. Course grades will follow the plus/minus model. For example: 80%-82% = B-; 83%-86% = B; 87%-89% = B+. Students who are absent due to illness or quarantine are expected to complete required work. Make-up exams may be difficult to schedule due to Covid restrictions and may have to be adjusted to individual circumstances. You can keep track of your grade status by checking the “My Grades” function on Blackboard.

Extra Credit: 5 points will be given for proof of voter registration. An additional **15** points are possible for watching and reviewing 3 approved documentaries or movies available at Meyer Library or online. (Total **20**)

Computer & Cell Phone use PROHIBITED in class: use of cell phones and similar devices is **prohibited** during class and they must be turned off or silenced and **PUT AWAY**. Violation of cell phone policy may result in temporary confiscation or dismissal from class. Exceptions are possible in special circumstances (requested in advance) or in the case of a university-wide emergency notification. The use of **LAPTOPS, TABLETS, etc.** for note-taking is **PROHIBITED** except for disability accommodation. See the posting regarding computer prohibition under “syllabus and information” for explanation.

Academic Integrity: You are responsible for knowing and following MSU’s student honor code, found on the University Policies menu. **This instructor’s specific policy** is that plagiarism, or the use of notes or assistance during exams, will result in an “F” on the assignment for all involved.

University Policies: University policies common to all courses may be found on the Blackboard menu.

Course Objectives: U.S. History to 1877 has among its goals teaching students to:

1. Appreciate the contributions of diverse peoples and cultures to the development of the nation.
2. Understand how present situations have grown out of past events and circumstances.
3. Understand the ideas that contributed to the creation of American political and social culture.
4. Understand the basic documents that embody the ideas and mechanics of American government.
5. Develop skill in evaluating evidence, and in making deductive inferences.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT OUTLINE

(Textbook) Roark, The American Promise, A Concise History Volume I, 8th Edition

Blight, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass

**** Students are expected to have read assigned materials prior to lecture and discussion ****

Schedule of Class Assignments

Jan 19-24	Chapter 1	America's First Peoples—Not What You Expected?	
Jan 26-31	Chapter 2	How did the Old World alter the New World, and vice-versa?	
Feb 2-7	Chapter 3	How did slavery become part of America?	Quiz #1-2 Feb 2
Feb 7-11	Chapter 4	What was New England's lasting influence on America?	
Feb 14-16	Chapter 5	13 Colonies: one country? Or three? Or 13?	Quiz #3-4 Feb 14
Feb 18-21	Chapter 6	From contentment to crisis—what happened?!?	
Feb 23-28	Chapter 7	Revolution: how a “minority” creates change	
Mar 2-9	Chapter 8	The Constitution: can a Republic survive?	
March 4		CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS ESSAY DUE	
March 11		MIDTERM EXAM, Chapters 5 – 8	
<i>March 12-20</i>		** SPRING BREAK **	
Mar 21-23	Chapter 9	Political parties! Not so “united” after all?	
Mar 25-28	Chapter 10	Principles versus practicalities (AKA the real world?)	
Mar 30-Apr 4	Chapter 11	How does new technology change society?	
Apr 6-11	Chapter 12	The North—almost a separate country?	
April 13		EXAM, Chapters 9 – 12	
<i>April 15</i>		** No Class - Spring Holiday **	
Apr 18	Chapter 13	The South—almost a separate country?	
Apr 22-29	Chapter 14	The downward spiral—was it inevitable?	
April 25		FREDERICK DOUGLASS ESSAY DUE	
May 2-6	Chapter 15	Why a Civil War? And what did it change?	
May 9-11	Chapter 16	Reconstruction—failure, or still working on it?	

FINAL EXAMS: Section 001 (11:15 class) Monday, May 16, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Section 002 (12:20 class) Wednesday, May 18, 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

