

Missouri State University

History 121: History of the United States to 1877

Fall 2017

Section 16 Tu/Th 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.  
Strong 301

Dr. Jeremy Neely

Office: 444 Strong Hall

Office Hours: Tu/Th, 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.,

and by appointment

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### Required Texts

- Foner, Eric, editor. *Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History*, Volume One: Fourth Edition. (New York: Norton, 2013). ISBN: 978-0-393-92291-2.
- McLaurin, Melton. *Celia, a Slave*. (New York: Avon, 1999). ISBN: 978-0-380-80336-1.
- Rowlandson, Mary. *Sovereignty and the Goodness of God, with Related Documents*. Neal Salisbury, editor. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1997). ISBN: 978-0-312-11151-9.
- Various primary sources and essays, which are posted to the course Blackboard page.

### Recommended Texts

- Eric Foner. *Give Me Liberty! An American History*, Volume One: Fourth Edition, Seagull Edition. (New York: Norton, 2012). ISBN: 9780393920307.
- *The American Yawp: A Free and Online, Collaboratively Built American History Textbook*; [www.americanyawp.com](http://www.americanyawp.com) (Chapters 1 through 16).
- *Hamilton*: Original Broadway Cast Recording (Atlantic Records, 2015).

The Foner textbook and the online *Yawp* are useful complements to the primary source readings and course lectures. I encourage you to buy the Foner text if you wish to have a more detailed understanding of American history, but you are not required to purchase it. You can still succeed in this course without purchasing this text, but it will prove valuable if you really like American history or believe that you might need the extra help.

### Prerequisites

None. This course surveys the history of the United States from the first contacts between Native Americans and European explorers to the end of Reconstruction in 1877. As an introductory/freshman-level course, it assumes no previous knowledge of U.S. history except what one would gain in a typical high school course.

### General Education Learning Objectives

This section of History 121 seeks to develop your abilities to:

1. Identify the rights and responsibilities you have in your own communities and the broader society
2. Recognize the ways in which you can exercise your rights and responsibilities
3. Understand, critically examine, and articulate key similarities and differences between your own cultural practices and perspectives and those of other cultures, past and present
4. Analyze the role that different languages, cultures, institutions, and beliefs have in shaping individual and collective behavior.

In this course I do not simply emphasize the rote memorization of historical facts (although mastery of subject matter is a necessary part of the course). I instead put greater emphasis on historical thinking and on students' development as critical thinkers. In other words, when you leave this course you will hopefully remember a good many names and terms, and perhaps a few dates, but it is more important to me that you learn to think, speak, and write more clearly as you explain *how* and *why* those facts have mattered to American history. This course will also help you begin to think like a historian, as it teaches you how to:

- read a primary source and ask thoughtful questions about the influences of historical context;
- see the complex connections between the past and present;
- evaluate the ways in which historical contexts influence human thought and behavior;
- understand what makes someone or something historically significant; and
- recognize how historians disagree in their interpretations of past people, events, and ideas.

## Course Requirements and Policies

I expect you to have read and be familiar with the requirements and policies laid out in this syllabus.

### Office Hours

You are always welcome to stop by my office with any questions, comments, or concerns, either during the posted office hours (11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays) or at another time that works for both of us. If your schedule prevents you from visiting during the posted office hours, please contact me to arrange an alternative meeting time. You are always welcome to visit, call, or e-mail me with any questions that you might have about the course.

### Grades:

Your final grade will be determined by your performance on the following course components. To calculate your final grade at the end of the semester, divide your total number of points out of 1,000.

Exam One	200 points
Exam Two	200 points
Final Exam	200 points
Quizzes	200 points
Attendance/Participation	200 points
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Total Course Points Possible	1,000 points

All sections of History 121 and 122, according to History department policy, use a plus/minus distribution to determine course grades. For more information, please see [www.missouristate.edu/registrar/catalog/grades.html](http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/catalog/grades.html)

A	930 – 1,000 points	C +	770 – 799 points	F	0 – 599 points
A -	900 – 929 points	C	730 – 769 points		
B +	870 – 899 points	C -	700 – 729 points		
B	830 – 869 points	D +	650 – 699 points		
B -	800 – 829 points	D	600 – 649 points		

### Examinations

There will be three examinations. The first examination will be held during the regular class meeting on **Thursday, September 28**. The second midterm examination will be held during the regular class meeting on **Thursday, November 2**. The final examination will be held on **Tuesday, December 12, from 1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.**

*Exceptions for the final exam:* students who are scheduled to take more than three examinations on any single day of the final-exam period should contact the dean of the college in which they are majoring, as alternate exam accommodations may be provided. Non-degree seeking students should contact the Extended Campus Registration Services Office, Alumni Center, 300 S. Jefferson, in downtown Springfield.

Each exam will include several multiple-choice and short-answer questions, plus one essay question. Any information that has been introduced during lectures, primary source readings, class videos, or discussions will be fair game for the exams. Students will have some choice over which essay question they answer. Each exam, which is worth 200 points, or 20 percent of the overall course grade, is not comprehensive.

Make-up exams shall only be allowed for students with a legitimate and documented excuse, such as a medical or family emergency, compulsory military service, or a university-sanctioned event. Students who find it absolutely necessary to miss an in-class exam must, if at all possible, contact me beforehand and obtain my consent to arrange a make-up.

### Quizzes:

Twelve short online quizzes will be administered weekly during the semester. The quizzes, which focus upon the assigned primary source readings, are open book (or “open source,” for the online sources) and open note. These quizzes, which consist mostly of multiple-choice questions, are designed to prepare students for Friday discussions, as well as the longer examinations. Quizzes, which are each worth 20 points, must be completed in the allotted time, usually between 30 and 45, and submitted via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday of most weeks, except otherwise noted. **Late submissions of quiz answers shall not be accepted.** Only your top twelve quiz scores will count toward your final course grade.

### Blackboard:

This course will make use of its Blackboard page for a variety of purposes. In addition to taking your quizzes on Blackboard, you will also be able to find course documents—the syllabus, grading rubrics, study guides, and other items—posted on Blackboard. I will also post the PowerPoint slides from lecture prior to class, unless class attendance begins to decline substantially. You will also be able to track your course grades via Blackboard. Attendance and participation grades will not be calculated until the very end of the semester. If you have questions about the status of your attendance and participation grade, please see me.

### Attendance/Participation

I expect you will have completed the assigned readings (outlined below) before the start of the class when they are listed. A portion of every class will be devoted to discussion of these readings. Student attendance and participation in these classroom discussions comprise twenty percent of the final course grade. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Regular attendance is expected of all students and is critical to your success in the course, as a great majority of the exam questions will come from class lectures and discussions.

1. Students who have **more than three** unexcused absences shall see their attendance/participation score reduced by **half**.
2. Students who have **more than six** unexcused absences shall see their attendance and participation score reduced to **zero**.
3. For students with fewer than three unexcused absences, I will round up any decimal point higher than .5 on their final course grade. For students with more than three unexcused absences, I will not round up decimal points, and final course grades will be calculated according to the scale outlined on page two of the syllabus.

You must be present at the beginning of class and remain for the entire period in order to be counted as present for that day. Students who are repeatedly late for class shall see their attendance scores reduced. You bear the responsibility to make sure that I have counted you as present for days when you are late for class. Absences will only be excused for a documented illness, personal/family emergencies, compulsory military service, and university-sanctioned events.

To receive full credit for this part of the course grade, you must not only show up but also be a regular contributor to in-class discussions. A student who has perfect attendance but never speaks in class will have only an average attendance/participation score. Active student participation is the lifeblood of a good course, and group discussions depend upon the constructive and respectful participation of class members. Students are expected to ask questions, respond to my inquiries, and speak thoughtfully in response to others' contributions.

This attendance and discussion score also includes in-class writing exercises. Some of these exercises will be very short writing assignments whose topics will be announced in advance. Other exercises will be brief, unannounced quizzes. The frequency of the unannounced quizzes will depend upon the vitality of course discussions; if it seems that many students are not doing the assigned readings, the likelihood of in-class quizzes goes up. Most exercises will be worth five or ten points each.

### Electronic Devices:

In this course, you will not be allowed to use laptops, tablets, or cell phones during class *unless* we are discussing the online readings. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be silenced during class time. Disruptive uses of these devices (think: texting in class) will result in a student losing attendance and participation credit. If I see you using your phone inappropriately during class, I will probably call you out by name.

Exceptions to this policy include university emergencies, when students may check their devices to determine in an emergency exists, and instances when students wish to make audio recordings of my lectures. Please ask if you wish to record lecture or if you have questions or concerns about this policy on electronic devices.

### **Dropping the Class:**

It is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow the proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the university, contact the Office of the Registrar at 836-5520 or visit the University's list of relevant deadlines at [www.missouristate.edu/registrar/acad\\_cal.html](http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/acad_cal.html).

### **Emergency Response/Medical Information:**

You should familiarize yourself with the emergency response plan for this classroom, including the location of Strong Hall's exits and evacuation centers. If you require assistance during an emergency evacuation, please discuss your needs with me at your earliest convenience. (For more information, go to [www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm](http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm) and [www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm](http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm).) Similarly, if you have emergency medical information to share, please visit with me as soon as possible.

### **Statement of Nondiscrimination:**

Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure available to any person who believes that he or she has been the victim of discrimination. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the Office for Institutional Equity and Compliance, Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, 417-836-4252 ([www.missouristate.edu/equity/](http://www.missouristate.edu/equity/)). Other kinds of concerns, such as those of an academic nature, should be discussed with me and can also be brought to the attention of the Department of History.

### **Statement on Disability Accommodation:**

Students who wish to request academic accommodations for a disability should contact the Director of the Disability Resource Center, Plaster Student Union, Suite 405, (417) 836-4192 or (417) 836-6792 (TTY) ([www.missouristate.edu/disability](http://www.missouristate.edu/disability)). Students are required to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations. Disability Services refers some types of accommodation requests to the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, which also provides diagnostic testing for learning and psychological disabilities. For information about testing, contact the Director of the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, 836-4787 (<http://psychology.missouristate.edu/ldc/>).

### **Statement on Academic Dishonesty:**

*Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. Students are responsible for knowing and following the university's student honor code, Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures, available at [www.missouristate.edu/policy/academicintegrity.htm](http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/academicintegrity.htm) and also at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy.*

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. A student caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing (submitting work that is not his or her own) will automatically receive a zero on that exam or assignment and be reported to the Office of the Provost. Discipline may also result in assignment of an "XF" course grade.

In some cases, plagiarism results from laziness or willful dishonesty, but in others it is the product of ignorance or carelessness. Ignorance, however, is not an excuse. I will offer guidance about how to avoid plagiarism, whether intentional or inadvertent, **but it is ultimately each student's responsibility to practice academic integrity, to cite materials properly, and to do his or her own work.** If you ever have questions about attribution or paraphrasing, please ask me. When in doubt, though: always cite your sources.

### **Mental Health/Stress Management**

The Missouri State University Counseling Center is available to provide free and confidential services to students. You can find more information at <https://counselingcenter.missouristate.edu/>.

I'm glad that you are here, and I want to help you succeed. If at any point during the semester you find yourself really struggling, please know that there are resources available to help you. The MSU Suicide Prevention Resource Policy includes many of these resources: [https://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op1\\_08-suicide-prevention-available-suicide-programs-and-related-procedures.htm](https://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op1_08-suicide-prevention-available-suicide-programs-and-related-procedures.htm)