I. Course Description and Goals

Q: “What is this course about?”

Students in this course will gain an introductory grounding in the study of U.S. history from 1877 to the present. Throughout the term, students will analyze different approaches to narrating history and work on their own writing and storytelling skills.

Students should be prepared to read critically, ask questions, and think independently. The habits of thought, skills, and historical knowledge that students gain in this class can enable them to participate more effectively in broader debates in our society not only about the past but also the present and future.

Q: “What are the goals of this course?”

Students who succeed in this course will gain an introductory-level grounding in the following areas of historical inquiry:

- Major topics in U.S. history, including political history, social history, and cultural history.
- Analysis of primary and secondary sources.
- Writing and storytelling.

II. Required Work

Q: “What are the required assignments for this course and how are they weighted?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Discussions (2 Posts per Discussion for a Total of 6 Posts)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</table>

The first post for each discussion must contain a minimum of 200 words. The second post must contain a minimum of 100 words. Discussions are equally weighted. Each discussion is worth 10% of the total course grade.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 1 Quiz:</strong></td>
<td>10 Multiple Choice/Short Answer Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 1 Essay:</strong></td>
<td>500-word minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 2 Quiz:</strong></td>
<td>10 Multiple Choice/Short Answer Questions</td>
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<td>500-word minimum</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 3 Quiz:</strong></td>
<td>20 Multiple Choice/Short Answer Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 3 Essay:</strong></td>
<td>500-word minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Grade</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

5%  
5%  
10%  
10%  
20%  
20%  
100%

Q: “How do I learn about due dates?”

For an overview of due dates in the course, see “Schedule/Due Dates,” below.

Q: “Is this one of those online courses where I can do the work and turn it in whenever I want?”

No. This course is not “self-paced,” and it is only partially “asynchronous.”

Unlike a regular “bricks-and-mortar” class, which requires you to join with other students in the same place at the same time, there are no specific times/dates on which you must be logged into the course website.

But there are several hard-and-fast due dates in this course, and most of them well fall before the end of the term. I have done my best to enable flexibility by setting due dates at the end of “time slots” or windows of time. For a list of due dates and an explanation of time slots, see “Schedule/Due Dates,” below.

Q: "How much reading is required for this course?"

Like most history courses, this class requires a substantial amount of reading. The typical unit requires students to read at least 100 pages, and sometimes substantially more.
III. Required Materials

Q: “What are the required materials for this course?”

Required materials consist of 1) the required textbook and 2) media that may be accessed via the course website, including additional readings, the Professor’s Blog, and videos.

Required Book:

Title: *American Yawp*, Vol. II  
Publisher: Stanford University Press  
Date: Current  
URL: [http://www.americanyawp.com/](http://www.americanyawp.com/)  
Cost: Access to the textbook is free.

Q: "Can I purchase a hard copy of the book or an e-book?"

Yes, you can, but it's not necessary. You can find more information here: https://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=30476

IV. Grading Scale and Assessment

Q: “What is the grading scale? Are grades curved?”

A: 93-100  C: 73-76  
A-: 90-92  C-: 70-72  
B+: 87-89  D+: 67-69  
B: 83-86  D: 63-66  
B-: 80-82  D-: 60-62  
C+: 77-79  F: 0-59

Grades are not curved.

Q: "How do you assess and grade students' written work?"

For an overview, consult “Writing for this Course: Assessment and Grading,” located on the course website under Course Materials.

V. Technology

Q: “What technology is required for this course? Where can I get help?”

This course requires use of a web-based LMS (Learning Management System) named “Canvas,” which is available to all enrolled students at UW-Milwaukee and fully supported by the UW System.
For more about Canvas, including help and information about other technical requirements, visit: https://uwm.edu/canvas/home/

Regular, daily access to a computer with a high-speed Internet connection is vital for use of Canvas and this course. Do not try to take this course using only a smartphone or a tablet.

I recommend that students take quizzes on a computer with a wired Internet connection, as any interruption in Internet service can result in loss of work. If students do not have a wired connection at home, they may use any computer in a UW-Milwaukee campus computer lab or visit a public library.

In addition, students must have access to the following:

- Word. (Word is available at no additional charge to all enrolled UW-Milwaukee students via Office 365.)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader. (Reader can be downloaded for free at the Adobe website.)

It is imperative that students have regular access to adequate, reliable, technology throughout the term. A computer glitch, lost file, interrupted wireless connection, or any other technical problem cannot serve as an excuse for failure to complete an assignment on time.

Q: “Where do I go for help with other technology questions?”


Q: “What will I find on the course website?”

The specific tools in Canvas that I use vary from course to course and may include the following: Home, Syllabus, Announcements, Assignments, and Grades.

Home

“Home” is the page that welcomes you after you have logged into Canvas and selected our course. This home page offers an overview of the entire course and access to each of the areas described below. “Home” is the by far the most useful of all the pages/tools in Canvas. When in doubt, go to “Home”!

On “Home,” you will find most of the content you need for the course organized by kind or “module,” including links to instructions for required readings and assignments.

Announcements
“Announcements” is where I put course announcements and reminders.

Assignments

“Assignments” is where you will find a list of graded assignments for the course, including discussions, quizzes, and essays. “Home” offers a much better overview of the work required for this course than “Assignments.”

Discussions

"Discussions" is where you will find discussion assignments. (They can also be found under “Home” and "Assignments.")

Grades

“Grades” is where I will post your grades for the course as well as feedback in the form of completed rubrics. You will be able to access this section to see your extant grades throughout the term.

Syllabus

“Syllabus” is the place where you will find the course syllabus and links to specific assignments. “Home” offers a much better overview of the work required for this course than “Syllabus.” The “Course Summary” feature of Canvas is poorly designed.

Q: “When is Canvas not available to me?”

Canvas may occasionally be taken down for scheduled maintenance. You can find information about any upcoming "outages" at the welcome screen that greets you after you log on.

Q: “How often do I need to log in to Canvas?”

You should expect to check the course website at least once per day to stay informed about any announcements, additions to the course website, posts to the Professor’s Blog, and the like. If religious observance prevents you from checking the website on any given day, please inform me at smia@uwm.edu.

Q: “How should I contact the professor if I have a question? What e-mail account should I use?”

All course-related e-mail communication should be conducted using UW-Milwaukee e-mail addresses. Your UW-Milwaukee e-mail address is your ePanther ID + @uwm.edu. Example: smia@uwm.edu.
Students who are new to UW-Milwaukee will receive an ePanther ID and a corresponding UW-Milwaukee e-mail address upon their enrollment.

I understand that it can feel like a nuisance to have to switch to a UW-Milwaukee e-mail account if you are not accustomed to using that account, especially if you are using the account only for the purposes of this course. Nevertheless, for technical reasons, I am only able to send messages to your UW-Milwaukee e-mail account. The good news is that you can easily forward e-mail received by your UW-Milwaukee account to your regular e-mail account if you wish. Consult the UW-Milwaukee Campus IT Support (Help Desk) for assistance: [http://www4.uwm.edu/technology/help/campus/](http://www4.uwm.edu/technology/help/campus/).

Although the most reliable way to reach the professor is via e-mail at smia@uwm.edu, you can also use the “ Conversations” (“Inbox”) tool in Canvas to communicate with the professor.

*Important: Please put our course number (132, 293, 600, etc.) in the subject line of all your e-mail messages to me. I receive many messages every day. By placing the course number in the subject line, you make it easier for me to locate and respond to your message.*

**VI. Course and University Policies**

**Q: “What is the course policy on late assignments?”**

This course moves very quickly. To discourage students from falling behind, the course places severe limits on the submission of late assignments.

Any assignment that is turned in one day late will be subject to a grade reduction of 20%.

Any assignment that is turned in two days late will be subject to a grade reduction of 30%.

Any assignment that is turned in three or more days late will automatically receive a "0." In other words, any assignment that is not turned in within two days of the original due date will automatically receive a "0."

**Q: "What happens if a student fails to complete one or more of the three required essays?"**

Failure to complete any of the three essays required for course will result in failure of the entire course.

**Q: “What are UW-Milwaukee’s policies regarding students with disabilities, religious observances, etc.?”**
Please consult the following link for a list of official, university-wide policies: http://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf

Q: “What are the university and course policies regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct?”

The University of Wisconsin System defines academic misconduct as follows:

"Academic misconduct is an act in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation [plagiarism], uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise, forges or falsifies academic documents or records, intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others, engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance, or assists other students in any of these acts."

Plagiarism is an instance of academic misconduct. According to the official policy of the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents, plagiarism includes:

1. Directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them; or,
2. Using sources of information (published or unpublished) without identifying them; or,
3. Paraphrasing materials or ideas of others without identifying the sources.

The UWM policy concerning plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct is available here: http://www4.uwm.edu/dos/conduct/academic-misconduct.cfm.

It is the policy of this course that academic misconduct, including plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized sharing of answers to quizzes will result in the failure not only of the assignment in which the misconduct occurs but also of the entire course.

Q. "How much time do I need to devote to this course?"

This is a 3-credit course. In conformance with a mandate from the U.S. Department of Education, students may expect to devote as many as 135 hours to this class during the term in order to achieve the learning goals of this course. Work in this context includes completing the required readings, writing discussion posts and essays, and preparing for and taking quizzes.

Q. "How do I become a history major?"

Consider majoring in history! The process of declaring is easy. For instructions, visit: http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/history/undergrad/

Remember that all students in the College of Letters & Science need to declare and complete an academic major to graduate. If you have not yet declared a major, the
College encourages you to do so as soon as possible, even if you’re just starting your college career.

For more about the value of majoring in history, including information about careers, visit: https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/why-study-history

VII. Schedule/Due Dates

Q: “How does a ‘time slot’ work”?

A “time slot” is a window of time during which an assignment is available. Instructions, requirements, and other basic information about an assignment become visible to students at the start of the time slot. The deadline (due date) of any given assignment is at 11:59 p.m. (one minute before midnight) on the last day of the time slot.

All times/dates in this class are in Central Time (Wisconsin).

For example, imagine that “Unit 1 Quiz” has a time limit of 60 minutes and is located in the following time slot: 6/30-7/3. This means that the quiz becomes visible to students at 12 a.m. on 6/30. Students may start the 60-minute quiz at any point during the time slot. Once they start the quiz, however, they only have 60 minutes to complete it. The quiz must be submitted or completed no later than 11:59 p.m. on 7/3.

My advice is to pick a 60-minute window of time to take the quiz at some point during the time slot—in this case, 6/30-7/3. Do not wait too long to start the quiz. You can still start the 60-minute quiz on the last day of the time slot, but don’t stress yourself by starting to close to the final deadline, which is always 11:59 p.m. on the last day of the time slot.

Note: The information below is subject to change. Always refer to the course website for official due dates as well as specific instructions for readings, discussion posts, quizzes, and essays.

Prelude: History and Narrative (7/22-7/24)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Slot</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/22-7/24</td>
<td>Readings (see course website for details)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unit 1 (7/22-7/31)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Slot</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/22-7/27</td>
<td>Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/22-7/25</td>
<td>Unit 1 Discussion—First Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/26-7/27</td>
<td>Unit 1 Discussion—Second Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/28-7/31</td>
<td>Unit 1 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/28-7/31</td>
<td>Unit 1 Essay</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Unit 2 (7/31-8/8)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Slot</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/31-8/3</td>
<td>Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/31-8/3</td>
<td>Unit 2 Discussion—First Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/4-8/5</td>
<td>Unit 2 Discussion—Second Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/5-8/8</td>
<td>Unit 2 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/5-8/8</td>
<td>Unit 2 Essay</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Unit 3 (8/6-8/17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Slot</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/6-8/10</td>
<td>Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/6-8/10</td>
<td>Unit 3 Discussion—First Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/11-8/12</td>
<td>Unit 3 Discussion—Second Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/13-8/17</td>
<td>Unit 3 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/13-8/17</td>
<td>Unit 3 Essay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of Due Dates for Assignments:

7/24  Readings—Prelude
7/25  Unit 1 Discussion—First Post
7/27  Unit 1 Discussion—Second Post
7/27  Readings—Unit 1
7/31  Unit 1 Quiz
7/31  Unit 1 Essay
8/3   Readings—Unit 2
8/3   Unit 2 Discussion—First Post
8/5   Unit 2 Discussion—Second Post
8/8   Unit 2 Quiz
8/8   Unit 2 Essay
8/10  Unit 3 Readings
8/10  Unit 3 Discussion—First Post
8/12  Unit 3 Discussion—Second Post
8/17  Unit 3 Quiz
8/17  Unit 3 Essay