

# the boundaries of american belonging

## united states history II

### Welcome to HIST 2020!

We will explore and examine what it has meant to be an American, from 1877 to the present. We will think critically about how ideas about race and ethnicity, expectations of gender and sexuality, processes of industrialization and urbanization, developments of capitalism and consumerism, and dynamics of space and place have determined who can access and experience American citizenship. In short, we will consider how the boundaries of American belonging have expanded, contracted, changed, and rearranged over time.

This means you will not simply be responsible for recounting and remembering important individuals, events, and developments. Instead, we actively will practice history. We will:

- **Analyze historical facts and interpretations**
- **Analyze and compare political, geographic, economic, social, cultural, religious, and intellectual institutions, structures, and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures**
- **Recognize and articulate the diversity of human experience across a range of historical periods and the complexities of a global culture and society**
- **Draw on historical perspective to evaluate contemporary problems/issues**
- **Analyze the contributions of past cultures/societies to the contemporary world**

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**office:**

**office hours:**

**class date/time:**

**class location:**

**required texts:**

*The American Yawp*,  
[americanyawp.com](http://americanyawp.com)

*Contested Waters*,  
Jeff Wiltse  
(available through  
MTSU Library)

**GRADE  
BREAKDOWN**

participation: 25%  
papers: 25%

quizzes: 25%  
exams: 25%

See the D2L course page for the complete class schedule, including assigned readings, class discussion expectations, and assignment requirements.

## Assignments

### participation: 25%

Participation requires actively engaging in class sessions. All students will begin with semester with 25 participation points. During each class session, students can earn participation points for positive contributions, such as sharing ideas, asking questions, assuming leadership role during groups activities, listening to others, completing in-class assignments, and other actions that encourage curious and creative historical conversations. In order to sustain spirited, equitable class conversations over the course of the semester, students can receive a maximum of 5 participation points per class period. Distracting behaviors, such as browsing the internet, messing with one's phone, wearing ear buds, or leaving early, will result in students losing participation points.

### quizzes: 25%

Each week, students will complete a multiple-choice quiz on D2L. Quizzes will include critical information from that week's assigned *American Yawp* chapter. These quizzes are intended to ensure students are prepared for the coming week's lectures, conversations, and discussions. Quizzes should be completed on D2L by Monday morning at 8AM every week..

### papers: 25%

During the semester, students will complete two 750-1,000-word reflection papers and one 2,000-2,500-word analytical paper. For the two reflection papers, students will combine information from the assigned readings, ideas from class discussions, and their own primary source research and analysis to critically consider what certain events, developments, institutions, or individuals reveal about the boundaries of American belonging. Students also will complete a final analytical paper based on *Contested Waters*. Additional instructions will be posted to D2L.

### exams: 25%

Students will complete three in-class exams based on information from readings, lectures, and discussions. Exams will include identification, short-answer, and essay questions. Additional information and direction will be given as the exams approach.

## Other Expectations

**technology:** In class sessions, we will be accessing and engaging with materials online. If you are able, please bring a computer or other device.

**assignments:** All assignments are due to D2L in accord with the posted date/time. Late work will receive deductions, unless an administrative-approved excuse is provided. The last date to complete

an assignment is one week after the original due date. After that, no late work will be accepted. If you anticipate difficulties submitting an assignment on time, please contact the professor at least 5 days in advance. Extensions will be provided if they are negotiated well in advance.

**academic integrity:** Academic integrity is a hallmark of Middle Tennessee State University. We expect students to complete academic exercises and assignments that are original and appropriately credit all sources used. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

**plagiarism:** The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one's own without proper attribution. This includes self-plagiarism, which occurs when an author submits material or research from a previous academic exercise to satisfy the requirements of another exercise and uses it without proper citation of its reuse. **cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. This includes unapproved collaboration, which occurs when a student works with others on an academic exercise without the express permission of the professor. It also includes purchasing assignments or paying another person to complete a course for you. **fabrication:** Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

**If you have a question about an assignment, please ask the professor to clarify. Repeated cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Director of Student Academic Ethics and may result in failure on the assignment or for the course.**

**accessibility:** If you have a documented disability and/or need a reasonable accommodation, please consult with the professor as soon as possible. MTSU is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any interested student can consult the DAC website and/or contact the DAC at [dacemail@mtsu.edu](mailto:dacemail@mtsu.edu).

**address:** Please inform the professor of your preferred name and/or pronoun.

To retain the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, FA, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. If you drop this class, withdraw, or if you stop attending this class you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship, and you may not be able to regain eligibility at a later time. For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form (<http://www.mtsu.edu/financial-aid/forms/LOTFOD.pdf>) or contact your MT One Stop Enrollment Counselor (<http://www.mtsu.edu/one-stop/counselor.php>).