

## HISTORY 176: United States to 1877

UW-Stevens Point at Wausau

Fall 2021

Professor Brett Barker, Ph.D.

T Th 2:00-3:15 PM

Class 81776 SEC W01

Room 241

### Contact Information:

E-mail: [bbarker@uwsp.edu](mailto:bbarker@uwsp.edu)

Office: 307

Office Hours: Thurs 1-2 and by appointment (in person or via Zoom)

### Course Objectives:

This course examines American history from the beginning of human habitation of North America through the era of the Civil War. Its aim is to help students gain a basic understanding of the major themes and developments in politics, society, economy, and culture in America during the first three centuries of European settlement. By the end of the semester students should have gained specific knowledge and skills that will prove useful in their college career.

Knowledge: a demonstrated understanding of the following:

- the diversity and complexity of native cultures at the time of contact with Europeans
- the founding of European colonies in North America, and the variety present among them
- the development of the English mainland colonies and their growing rift with Great Britain
- the introduction of slavery and its importance in U.S. history
- the causes, course, and consequences of the Revolution for the U.S. and its residents
- the economic and political development of the United States 1776-1877
- the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War
- the changes in everyday life and work for ordinary Americans between 1607 and 1877

Skills: success in this course will also require demonstration of the following:

- the ability to read and listen with critical perception
- the ability to analyze and synthesize course materials
- the ability to distinguish between knowledge, values, beliefs, and opinions
- the ability to use evidence to support assertions about the past

### Attendance:

**You must attend class.** Past experience indicates that students who attend irregularly always do poorly in the course. As a courtesy to the instructor and other students, **please arrive on time and turn off your cell phone and computers. Texting or computer use in class is prohibited unless allowed by an official accommodation plan.** Repeated violation of this rule will result in a significant lowering of your class citizenship grade (see below). You are expected to be in class every meeting—if you have to miss for a legitimate reason, please inform the professor.

**Grading Scale:**

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

**Required Texts:**

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*, vol. 1 (seagull 6<sup>th</sup> edition). You get this free through text rental.  
*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. ISBN: 978-0486284996  
 Primary Sources (available for free on Canvas site)

**Lectures, Readings, and Assignment Schedule:**

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Other Assignments</u>
Sep. 2	<i>Give Me Liberty!</i> , Ch. 1 (skim)	
Sep. 7-9	<i>Give Me Liberty!</i> , Ch. 2	
Sep. 14-16	<i>Give Me Liberty!</i> , Ch. 3	
Sep. 21-23	<i>Give Me Liberty!</i> , Ch. 4	
Sep 28-30	<i>Give Me Liberty!</i> , Ch. 5	Identification Exam (Sept. 30)
Oct. 5-7	<i>Give Me Liberty!</i> , Ch. 6	
Oct. 12-14	<i>Give Me Liberty!</i> , Ch. 7	
Oct. 19-21	<i>Give Me Liberty!</i> , Ch. 8	1 <sup>st</sup> Essay Exam (Oct. 21)
Oct. 26-28	<i>Give Me Liberty!</i> , Ch. 9	
Nov. 2-4	<i>Give Me Liberty!</i> , Ch. 10	
Nov. 9-11	<i>Give Me Liberty!</i> , Ch. 11	
Nov. 16-18	<b>Douglass, all</b>	Douglass Essay (due Nov. 20)
Nov. 23	<i>Give Me Liberty!</i> , Ch. 12	
Nov.30-Dec2	<i>Give Me Liberty!</i> , Ch. 13	
Dec. 7-9	<i>Give Me Liberty!</i> , Ch. 14	
<b>Final Exam:</b>	Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2:45-4:45 PM	

**Grading:** Course grades will be based on the following:

**20% Class Citizenship:** Not only should you attend class, but you are also expected to participate in discussions. In evaluating your participation grade, I will consider your attendance, the quantity and quality of your contributions, and your willingness to listen and interact with other students while integrating your comments into the flow of discussion.

**20% Quizzes, and In-Class Work:** Most of this will consist of the weekly quiz grades, although there may occasionally be other short in-class writing assignments. **In-class writing assignments and quizzes cannot be made up.**

**10% Identification Exam:** In-class Sept. 30.

**15% 1<sup>st</sup> Essay Exam:** In-class Oct. 21

**15% Douglass Essay:** Submit to Canvas by Nov. 20

**20% Final:** In Room 241 on Dec. 15 2:45-4:45 PM

**Two Important Notes about the Course:**

1. Weekly assignments are due on the dates specified, unless you make prior arrangement with the instructor. Late work will be penalized.
2. Academic Honesty and Classroom Behavior: This course is part of the UW-Stevens Point academic community, an academic community that is bound together by the traditions and practice of scholarship. Honest intellectual work – on examinations and on written assignments—is essential to the success of this community of scholars. Using classmates’ responses to answer exam questions or disguising words written by others as your own undermines the trust and respect on which our course depends. The work in this course is challenging and will demand a good deal of each of you. I have every confidence that each of you can succeed. Doing your own work will enhance your sense of accomplishment when the semester comes to a close.

Additionally, the classroom environment is a unique opportunity for students to share ideas, opinions, discuss classroom and course content. As each student is entitled to contribute in class, specific expectations are necessary to ensure a thriving classroom environment. Expectations include: arriving to class on time, being prepared for class, no electronic devices, unless authorized to do so, any loud shouting, excessive side conversations, arriving to class under the influence of any alcohol or drugs, profane language, and verbal or physical threats, intimidation of any kind, or any other behavior that may be disruptive to the professor or other students. If any of this behavior is exhibited, you may be asked to leave the class for the day. Any continued disruptive behavior may result in a referral to the Dean of Students Office.

**Students with Disabilities:**

The University has a legal responsibility to provide accommodations and program access as mandated by Section 54 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The university’s philosophy is to not only provide what is mandated but also convey its genuine concern for one’s total well-being. If accommodations are needed, please contact the instructor as well as the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (DATC), located on the Stevens Point campus. Students can also pick up an application for accommodations packet in the Solution Center.

DATC contact information:

(715) 346-3365 (Voice)

(715) 346-3362 (TDD only)

or via email at [datctr@uwsp.edu](mailto:datctr@uwsp.edu)

**Office Hours and Appointments:** Every one of you should come visit me during my office hours this semester. My office hours are time set aside for students, and successful students take advantage of them. Whether it’s a simple question or a serious problem in the course, you should never hesitate to drop in or make an appointment if my office hours do not fit your schedule.

**Changes to the Syllabus:**

I have tried to make this syllabus as accurate, complete, and helpful as possible. I do not anticipate changing any elements of this course, but I reserve the right to do so. Any changes will be announced in class with as much advance notice as possible.

## **COVID and the Classroom:**

### **Face Coverings:**

- At all UW-Stevens Point campus locations, the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in all buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other instructional spaces. Any student with a condition that impacts their use of a face covering should contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center to discuss accommodations in classes. Please note that unless everyone is wearing a face covering, in-person classes cannot take place. This is university policy and not up to the discretion of individual instructors. Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in formal withdrawal from the course.

### **Other Guidance:**

- Please monitor your own health each day using the screening tool. If you are not feeling well or believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class; email your instructor and contact Student Health Service (715-346-4646).
  - o As with any type of absence, students are expected to communicate their need to be absent and complete the course requirements as outlined in the syllabus.
- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from others whenever possible.
- Do not congregate in groups before or after class; stagger your arrival and departure from the classroom, lab, or meeting room.
- Wash your hands or use appropriate hand sanitizer regularly and avoid touching your face.
- Please maintain these same healthy practices outside the classroom.