

**HISTORY 177**  
**American History From 1877**  
**University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Marshfield**

**Instructor:** Robert Lowe II

**Office:**

**Phone:**

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**Office Hours: M, W, 7:30-8**

**Our Purpose in This Class:**

History 177 is a survey of the history of the United States from Reconstruction through to today. The course provides a general understanding of the cultures and people who shaped the American past. The course will utilize the language of periodization in order to better outline the Contemporary American period. This course will discuss a variety of perspectives that assist in explaining the American narrative. Through readings, lectures, and writing, the course will show how imperialism, immigration, gender, and religion have shaped the stories of the peoples of the United States.

**Learning Outcomes Students taking History 177 will develop skills necessary for basic historical understanding and analysis, focusing on the General Education requirements of Historical Perspectives and U.S. Diversity. Upon completing these requirements, students will be able to:**

**1: GEP HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES:** Use primary sources as evidence to answer questions about historical change.

**2: GEP HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES:** Describe differences among interpretations of the past.

**3: GEP HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES:** Analyze institutional and cultural changes in one or more human societies over time.

**4: GEP US DIVERSITY:** Describe how people or institutions in the United States have constructed diverse identities and cultures based on ability, ethnicity, gender, language, nationality, race, religion, sexuality, socio-economic status, etc.

**5: GEP US DIVERSITY:** Explain how individuals or groups in the United States have responded to the experience of discrimination and inequality.

**6: GEP US DIVERSITY:** Demonstrate understanding of and empathetic insight about diverse cultural perspectives in the United States

**Course Texts (Required): *Give Me Liberty* (7th ed.)**

\*\*\*Please make sure you get the proper editions of the textbooks, especially if you are not utilizing the campus bookstore. These are the Second volumes that cover the first half of American history From 1877.

### **Class Meetings:**

Class meetings will be a mixture of lecture, group interaction and larger discussion. Please come prepared to ask questions and interact with the course material as is required. Students may be expected to write out the argument of the chapter or article which was read for the class period. Students will be expected to write a paragraph describing what was discussed in groups during class.

### **Course Work:**

*Reading:* Students are expected to have completed all assigned readings as they are scheduled in the syllabus. A portion of the student's course grade will be determined by the ability of the student to recount the basic arguments of the literature. If students are struggling to understand the literature, the instructor is available during office hours to assist students in developing reading strategies that will help them better understand the material.

*Writing:* 1) Throughout the semester, the instructor will require one paragraph reflections concerning the lecture and reading material. These are unscheduled and at the instructor's leisure. 10% of the student's grade will be reflected in the completion of these in class reflections. 2) **Three Times** during the semester, you will write a **precis**

3) Two article reviews will be required of students based upon readings done outside of class. Each will be two pages, double-spaced in length. At the top of the page, the student will clearly write the thesis of the article in one sentence. In the first paragraph (5-7 sentences) the student will describe how the author supports the thesis. In the next paragraph the student will compare the essay with the readings found in our textbook, *Give Me Liberty*. The comparison should acknowledge similarities and differences between the article and the textbook. The final paragraph should be reflections on how this reshapes the student's understanding of U.S. history. Does this article support your previous pictures of the past or does it change them? In what ways?

3) Throughout the semester, students will meet in groups in class for discussion. One paragraph reflections based upon the student's in class group discussion are due the following class period. The one paragraph should describe three salient points made during the discussion based upon the assigned questions related to the lecture and readings.

*Quizzes and Final Exam:* The test portion of the student's grade will be comprised of two shorter quizzes and a final exam. Students will be expected to prepare for the tests by reviewing course material so that they can best answer matching questions, some short answer (two to three paragraph definitions), and some essay responses (requiring larger connection to be made between characters, events, and ideas in the course).

**Course Grade:**

- 100 points: In Class Reflections
- 60 points: Precis
- 100 points: Article Review #1
- 100 points: Article Review #2
- 120 points: Quiz #1
- 120 points: Quiz #2
- 200 points: Final Exam
- 200 points: Group Discussion Reflections

**Honesty**

It is the student's responsibility to make yourself aware of and understand the policies and procedures in the [Undergraduate Catalogue](#). This section pertains to the issues of academic honesty. In this section you will find policies concerning cheating, falsification, fabrication, forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity, and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe that you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

**HOW TO CONTACT THE PROFESSOR**

**Office Hours:** M,W, 7:30-8am and by appointment.

**E-mail:**rlowe@uwsp.edu

**Technology Guidelines**

**Computer usage:** This course meets in a classroom with computers on each desk. Appropriate usage is expected during the class period.

**Cell phone usage:** Research supports that having visual access to a cell phone diminishes our ability to learn. Checking social media, texts, emails, and messages is unprofessional and disrespectful to our class community. Please turn off your phone during class; I will do so as well. If I notice that you are using

your phone during class, I may ask you to put it away. Thank you for following these guidelines as they help create a positive learning community.

**Online postings:** This course requires posting of work online that is viewable only by your classmates and your instructor. None of the work submitted online will be shared publicly. Some assignments may require account creation for online programs. Your academic records (grades, student IDs, personal identification information) will not be shared by the instructor of this course. Confidentiality of student work is imperative, so you should not share the work of your peers publicly without their permission. By participating in these assignments, you are giving consent to sharing of your work with others in this class and you recognize there is a small risk of your work being shared online beyond the purposes of this course. If you elect to not participate in these online assignments due to confidentiality concerns, then an alternate assignment will be offered to you.

## **Inclusivity Statement**

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

If you have experienced a bias incident (an act of conduct, speech, or expression to which a bias motive is evident as a contributing factor regardless of whether the act is criminal) at UWSP, you have the right to report it using this [link](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

. You may also contact the Dean of Students office directly at dos@uwsp.edu.

## **Equal Access for Students with Disabilities**

UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. The modifications should not affect the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude upon academic freedom. Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted. The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe the disability.

*If modifications are required due to a disability, please inform the instructor and contact the [Disability Resource Center](#)*

[Links to an external site.](#)

*to complete an Accommodations Request form. Phone: 715-346-3365.*

## Helpful Resources

Tutoring and  
Learning Center

Academic and  
Career Advising

Safety and  
General Support

Care Services

Located in the  
Hamilton Roddis  
Memorial Library,  
get help with study  
skills, writing, and  
STEM: 715-346-  
3568

Located in the  
Marshfield  
Solution Center:  
715-389-6530

Office of the Dean  
of Students:  
715-346-2611

UWSP Counseling  
Services: 715-346-  
3553

Suicide & Crisis  
Lifeline: Call 988

More resources available at [uwsp.edu/dos](http://uwsp.edu/dos)

[Links to an external site.](#)

[Click here](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

to flag a policy or practice that disproportionately affects marginalized students

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

All conditions contained in the student handbook related to academic dishonesty will be in effect during the semester. It would behoove students to familiarize themselves with these conditions. Cheating will not be tolerated.

## **LAST DAY TO DROP THE CLASS**

This semester's deadline to drop without a 'W' is Feb, 1 and with a 'W' is April 7. See your academic advisor for procedures.

## **CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS**

It is conceivable that necessary alterations to the syllabus will arise during the semester. These will be communicated to the students with as much advance notice as possible.

### **Class Schedule**

#### **Week 1**

Introduction: History, America, and Interpretation.”

**READ:** *Give Me Liberty* Chapter 15, Lauck, Schwalm, and listen to Clark-Pujera

#### **Week 2**

Industrial America

**READ:** *Give Me Liberty* Chapter 16, Cronon, and Moody

#### **Week 3**

“Freedoms Boundaries, at Home and Abroad, 1890-1900”

**READ:** *Give Me Liberty* Chapter 17, Arnold, and Willard

#### **Week 4**

“The Progressive Era, 1900-1916”

**READ:** *Give Me Liberty* Chapter 18, Kiel, Flynn

#### **Week 5**

“Safe For Democracy, The United States and World War I”

**READ:** *Give Me Liberty* Chapter 19, Readings in Canvas

**Quiz #1 Due February 26 at 11:59pm**

#### **Week 6**

“From Business Culture to Great Depression”

**READ:** *Give Me Liberty* Chapter 20, Readings in Canvas

**Week 7**

“The New Deal”

**READ:** *Give Me Liberty* Chapter 21, Readings in Canvas

**Week 8**

“Fighting For The Four Freedoms”

**READ:** *Give Me Liberty* Chapter 22, Readings in Canvas

**Week 9**

“The United States and The Cold War”

**READ:** *Give Me Liberty* Chapter 23, Readings in Canvas

**Week 10**

“An Affluent Society”

**READ:** *Give Me Liberty* Chapter 24, Readings in Canvas

**Week 11**

“The Sixties”

**READ:** *Give Me Liberty* Chapter 25, Readings in Canvas

**Quiz #2 Due April 16 11:59pm**

**Week 12**

“The Conservative Turn”

**READ:** *Give Me Liberty* Chapter 26, Readings in Canvas

**Week 13**

“A New World Order”

**READ:** *Give Me Liberty* Chapter 27, Readings in Canvas

**Week 14**

“A Divided Nation”

**READ:** *Give Me Liberty* Chapter 28, Readings in Canvas

**Final Exam- May 17 at 11:59pm**