



History 553.01E & HIST 553.1SE— Readings in Modern United States History, 1850-1920
(CRN 83396 & 83400)
Fall 2025 Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Jessica Brannon-Wranosky

Class Meets: Wednesdays 7:20p-10:00p

In Building/Room: EDS Room: 135 and on Zoom (link will be provided for Section 1SE students)

Office Located In Ferguson Social Sciences (SS) 107

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-6:30 PM Central Time in person or via zoom

Email: Jessica.Wranosky@etamu.edu (Email is the best way to reach me)

D2L Course Website: located inside “MyLeo” inside your “Apps”
(<https://leoportal.tamuc.edu/>)

COURSE INFORMATION

Please Note—There is also a No AI policy for this course and this is a reading intensive course with assignments due weekly.

REQUIRED CLASS MATERIALS:

Course-wide Books:

1. Cathleen Cahill, *Recasting the Vote: How Women of Color Transformed the Suffrage Movement*. University of North Carolina Press. (ISBN 978-1469659329) (ETAMU Library has unlimited online access)
2. Jim Downs, *Sick from Freedom: African-American Illness and Suffering during the Civil War and Reconstruction*. Oxford University Press. (ISBN 978-0190218263) (ETAMU Library has a number of copies through online access). Any edition for format will work.
3. Natanya Duncan, *An Efficient Womanhood: Women and the Making of the Universal Negro Improvement Association*. University of North Carolina Press. (ISBN 978-1469683287).
4. Maria E. Montoya. *Translating Property: The Maxwell Land Grant And The Conflict Over Land In The American West, 1840-1900*. University of Kansas Press. (ISBN 978-0700613816) (ETAMU Library has unlimited online access)
5. Megan Kate Nelson, *Saving Yellowstone: Exploration and Preservation in Reconstruction America*. Scribner. (ISBN 978-1982141356). Paperback or hardback will work.
6. Charles Postel. *The Populist Vision*. Oxford University Press. (ISBN 978-0195384710) (ETAMU Library has unlimited online access)
7. Robert H. Wiebe, *The Search for Order, 1877-1920*. Hill and Wang Press. (ISBN 978-0809001040).

NOTE: A list of books will also be provided by the professor for students to choose from to review and present on in class on additional topics in addition to those above and for the historiography paper.

8. Students will need access to Microsoft Word, Google Docs (saved as a .docx to upload to the class), or other word processing software that can have files saved as .docx
9. Access to student email.
10. A reliable computer/laptop/compatible tablet with reliable internet access to take the course and do each week’s classwork.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

A Note About Required Readings: All of us will read and discuss the books on the list and any additional readings assigned by the professor for the entire class. All students are required to read all books, articles, and other readings assigned for the class. The assigned books are available for purchase at the campus bookstore, through the Internet, and at many regional book retailers. Also, a number of the class-wide assigned books are available in ebook format through Waters Library, and Dr. Wranosky highly suggests students take advantage of this access to reduce the cost of the course materials. Students will choose from a list of books to review for two of the weeks, and each student is responsible for procuring access to the book they choose to read, review and discuss in class for those weeks. Finally, students are responsible for procuring access to the books and articles they choose for their chosen historiographical paper topic for the course.

Any additional required reading assignments, such as articles, videos, or primary documents, will be assigned via the instructor through D2L-Brightspace, electronically through online links, or on reserve in Waters Library.

HIGHLY SUGGESTED:

1. Kate L. Turabian, et al., *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, Ninth Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers. (ISBN 978-0226430577).
2. William Strunk Jr. and Richard De A'Morelli. *The Elements of Style: Classic Edition (2018): With Editor's Notes, New Chapters & Study Guide*. 978-1643990019. (This is the recent version of what is often referred to by professors and academics and editors as "Strunk and White" and/or "Elements of Style").

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the wide range of research questions and historiographical debates which occupy historians of the United States from 1850 to 1920. Readings will concentrate on the origins and course of the Civil War; Reconstruction; the economic, political, social and cultural changes caused by industrialization; and the rise of the United States to preeminence as a world power.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Students will evaluate works discussing the history of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century United States.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Explanation of Evaluation Criteria:

9 Book Reviews	45%
Historiography Paper	25%
<u>Class Participation and Weekly Work</u>	<u>30%</u>
Semester Total	100 semester points

TURNITIN.COM: All papers and reviews must be uploaded to the appropriate listing in the course's turnitin.com space. Each student will need to use the specific course identification number and password to register to this class' turnitin shell. This information and directions for use will be provided to students in a separate document.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Book Reviews: You are required to write a total of nine book reviews for the course. Each review should be typed with 1-inch margins, free of grammatical and spelling and formatting errors, provide correct citation where necessary, include discussion of a published academic review of the assigned book, and **book reviews should be no less than 3 full pages (900 words) & absolutely no more than 5 pages (approximately 1500 words)**. You must turn in a copy of each review on the day that it is due in Microsoft Word format .doc or .docx in the appropriate D2L dropbox. If a student does not upload the assignment in the correct format by the due date, it is considered late. Furthermore, each weekday a paper is late without a documented excuse I will deduct 10% off its earned grade. I will provide further details regarding this assignment in a separate document in eCollege with a sample book review. Book reviews are graded based on level of analysis, discussion of book components as useful to historians, evidence of whether the student full read and understood much of the book's content, and format and grammar and spelling requirements. (This includes adhering to the sample book review's Turabian footnote and parenthetical requirements.)

Historiographical Paper (25% of the final grade): Students will each write a historiographical paper over an appropriate field/subfield of history topic of their choice that falls within the Modern United States History, 1850-1920. Students must have their topic and subsequently their readings list for the historiography paper approved by the professor. The paper will briefly examine each source chosen by the student for its individual arguments and contributions and also the relationships between each of the sources chosen and each source's discussion of the trends and/or changes in larger areas of the field. The historiographical paper will examine between 1,500-3,000 pages of text made up of a mixture of academically produced and academically published articles (from academic journals), books (from university or academic trade presses), and possibly anthology chapters (from university or academic trade presses). The historiographical paper will have one inch margins, be proofread and free of grammatically and formatting issues, have all its pieces formatted properly using Turabian style, and should be **no less than 3,000 words & absolutely no more than 5,000 words**. The paper will include a cover page, appropriate foot/endnotes, and a bibliography (which please note is different than a works cited). You must turn in a hardcopy the day that it is due AND upload a copy in Microsoft Word format .doc or .docx in the appropriate D2L dropbox. For additional help: view the YouTube video "What is Historiography" at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pB3xb1_gp4Y. We will discuss this video and the style, purpose and content of historiographical essays further in class throughout the semester.

!!Class "Attendance" and Participation: Participation both in person and online is crucial to your success in this course. Developmental activities occur every day this class "meets," and "absences" will adversely affect your grade. Habitual "absences" and "tardiness" are unacceptable. Yet, attendance is not enough—Simply being physically present is not enough.. You are graduate students in professional academic training, thus regular, relevant, and insightful verbal participation (both oral and written) is absolutely necessary for your success in this course. Participation in the class is a large part of this portion of the grade.

!!Student Conduct and Tone (Online and In Person): Students are required to respect their instructor and fellow students without exception. This includes using respectful tones and word choices and not over dominating class conversations either online or in person. Students will get one warning from the instructor regarding disrespectful or inappropriate behavior. On the second infraction, a student may be required to undergo disciplinary action, which may include removal from the course.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Class Calendar and Dates: While it is highly unlikely that the dates for the reading and assignments would change, I reserve the right to do so if the need presents itself. Any such changes will be announced in the announcements section on the course website homepage. The class calendar will be made available online in the D2L course.

Accommodations: This course is designed specifically with most accommodation requests in mind. Having said that, students who have accommodation needs documented and registered with the SDS Office at ETAMU will need to contact the instructor of the course via email for instructions on how to access alternative primary source analysis turn in instructions according to their modification requirements.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS— LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool:

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Emailing the professor's university email address (Jessica.Wranosky@etamu.edu) is the very best way to reach Dr. Wranosky. In every email, please make sure to provide your full name at the end, which course you are enrolled in, and a description of what your request or question is.

Dr. Wranosky will communicate with students through the email address they have on file in MyLeo (make sure yours is up to date and working throughout the semester) and D2L announcements. Please check these areas daily and before attending class and throughout the week. If an emergency arises, Dr. Wranosky will post the announcement for the class in one or more of these locations.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

In all forms of class communication including all online forums, students are expected and required to maintain a respectful tone and use semiformal to formal language.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Audio/Video Recording of Lectures and Class Meetings Policy: Students in the class have the right to expect privacy and security in their learning environments. Therefore, students will not create audio or video recordings of the materials without explicit professor permission. Further, no photographs, audio or video of the course may be uploaded or shared in any environment online or otherwise—including AI software or online notetaking platforms.

AI Use in this Course:

NOTE: Use of AI for this course is not allowed in any way.

ALSO: Do not upload any information from this course to any AI software or website—that is considered academic dishonesty and/or intellectual property theft.

Uploading any content from this course (including exam review information, exam questions, any sound or video files of anyone in the class, lecture note information, lecture note outlines, and/or any content from the publisher's websites or textbooks) to AI software (including DALL-E, ChatGPT, etc.), breaks copyright laws. To do so is illegal. AI software companies take ownership and use rights of any words, phrases, or files uploaded or used by their software, and students do not own any of the content from this course except for their own student created work. All AI software tracks users, and there are ways to know who uploaded what content. To break such laws is against university student code of conduct, as well as being an illegal action, and proper disciplinary procedures will be taken.

AI Use in Courses (Campus Statement):

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there may be legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructor's guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Class Calendar and Dates: While it is highly unlikely that the dates for the reading and assignments would change, I reserve the right to do so if the need presents itself. Any such changes will be announced in class or via the course website. The reading and writing assignments are due at the *start of class* and considered late thereafter.

University Specific Procedures Student Conduct

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.etamu.edu/counsel



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

ADDITIONAL HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS
--

Parking: If you have parking issues (including not being able to find a parking space) there are a number of general and student lots available on campus, but if you need further help please contact the East Texas A&M University Bursar's Office to obtain information on getting a parking permit. Therefore, parking issues should not cause tardiness or absence.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Illness: If you have health related issues (including needing a physician's attention and documentation for missed class/assignments) the East Texas A&M University Student Health Services Center is located in Henderson Hall. By paying student fees, you have the right to see a physician free of charge or for a nominal fee. Student Health Services is located in Henderson Hall, across from Prairie Crossing, on the corner of Lee St. and Monroe St. Their phone number is (903) 886-5853.

A Detailed Reading Schedule & Due Dates will be provided inside the course D2L online class calendar.

The Final Meeting for this class is scheduled according to the final exam schedule, and will occur December 10, 2025 during the regularly scheduled class time.

Have a good semester, and please feel free and empowered to approach us with any questions.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

BOOK ASSIGNED READINGS AND DUE DATES SCHEDULE			
Date(s)		ALL READINGS ASSIGNED FOR EACH WEEK ON THIS SCHEDULE AND THROUGH CLASS ARE TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THAT WEEK'S CLASS MEETING	CLASSWIDE BOOK & DUE DATES
Week 1	27-Aug	CLASS INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION OF FIRST WEEK'S READINGS. Have read and be ready to discuss: Nichols and Unger, A Companion to the Gilded Age and Progressive Era , Introduction Chapter and Chapter 1. Available online through Waters Library.	
Week 2	3-Sep	Downs, Sick From Freedom	Downs Review Due
Week 3	10-Sep	Nelson, Saving Yellowstone	Nelson, Review Due
Week 4	17-Sep	Wiebe, Search for Order	Wiebe Book Review Due; Historiographical Paper Topic Due
Week 5	24-Sep	Montoya, Translating Property	Montoya Review Due
Week 6	1-Oct	Historiographical Library Work & Professor Conferences	
Week 7	8-Oct	Postel, Populist Vision	Postel Review Due
Week 8	15-Oct	Cahill, Recasting the Vote	Cahill Review Due
Week 9	22-Oct	Articles & Readings Assigned for Class	
Week 10	29-Oct	Duncan, An Efficient Womanhood	Duncan Review Due
Week 11	5-Nov	Historiographical Library Work & Professor Conferences	
Week 12	12-Nov	Articles & Readings Assigned for Class	

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Week 13	19-Nov	Books Selected from List to be Discussed	Book Selected #1 Review Due
Week 14	26-Nov	Historiographical Library Work & Professor Conferences	
Week 15	3-Dec	Books Selected from List to be Discussed	Book Selected #2 Review Due
Week 16	10-Dec	Historiographical Paper Due & In Class Discussion of Topics and Findings from Papers	Historiographical Paper Due

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.