Course Overview:
The study of history helps us to not only better understand the people and places of the past but also to better understand ourselves. Historians use a range of evidence and skills to understand the people of the past on their own terms. We will ask how peoples’ choices long ago continue to shape the world we live in today. How did things come to be the way they are? What are the historical roots of the institutions, cultural beliefs, and values in the United States? We will also explore how we learn about the past, through primary source documents and archival material.

Our course will focus on the geographic area that is now the United States. We will generally move chronologically, from North America before the arrival of European explorers through the end of Reconstruction. We will examine large themes that stretch across the chronology of the course as well as small local histories. This survey is not intended to be comprehensive. Instead, we will examine the variety of ways historians approach the past through a range of topics and events. We will explore the significance of major events and the detail of daily life.

Course Prerequisites:
This course is an introductory survey. It does not require previous coursework in history. Your instructor assumes you bring college-level reading, writing, and speaking skills with you to the course. Please consult the Tutoring and Learning Center (715-346-3568) for help with writing, note-taking, and study skills. Please talk to me if you feel overwhelmed or confused, and consider taking one of the FREE tutorials at the Learning Center: writing papers, understanding difficult readings, taking lecture notes, and developing good study habits.
http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/
Rough Grading Overview:
Quizzes: 25%
Short written exercises: 25%
Midterm exam: 25%
Hollywood and History Paper: (Counts as 1/2 of your final exam)
Final exam: 25%

Grading is more of an art than a science, but you have a reasonable expectation to understand the grading scheme of the course. Some flexibility is built into the grading scale and is designed to benefit you—particularly if you demonstrate improvement over the course of the semester.

A (95-100): demonstrates excellent command of historical knowledge (ideas, names, places, dates, etc.) and an informed, thoughtful interpretation of that information
A- (90-94.9): demonstrates strong command of historical knowledge and interpretation
B+ (86-89.9)
B (82-85.9): demonstrates a good command of historical knowledge and some interpretation of that information; demonstrates significant preparation and thoughtful study
B- (79-81.9)
C+ (76-78.9)
C (72-75.9): demonstrates a minimal command of historical knowledge; demonstrates minimal preparation for assigned tasks
C- (69-71.9)
D+ (66-68.9)
D (62-65.9): demonstrates inaccurate historical knowledge, a general lack of information, or little preparation
D- (60-61.9)
F (60 or less): fails to answer the correct question or/and demonstrates little preparation for assigned tasks or very little analysis

Quizzes will be administered both during class and through Desire2Learn (D2L). They will focus on your textbook and supplemental readings. Most questions will be multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank, and more rarely short answer. These quizzes are intended to ensure that you keep up with the reading, understand the major themes of the course, and are prepared for the mid-term and final exams. D2L quizzes are open book. In-class quizzes, tests, etc. are closed book. Quizzes dates (open and closed times) will be announced in class. You will generally have several days within which you can complete the on-line quizzes.

Short written assignments will consist of both in-class response papers and take-home writing assignments. In-class writing assignments will often be based on primary source material. They will require you to interpret and analyze historical documents or arguments. It is critical that you keep up with your reading and attend class regularly for the best results on short writing assignments and quizzes.

Hollywood and History: Also, you are required to complete a 2-page (maximum) paper assessing the historical accuracy and historical themes of a film depicting the era or events covered by this class. You will receive further instructions on this paper in class and a list of pre-approved films. If you want to use a film not listed, you must speak with me during office hours about your choice. You will receive a handout with guidelines on this paper later in the course. This paper will be due near the end of the semester and will count as 1/2 of your final exam grade.

A Note on Attendance: I will take attendance. Attending class regularly, taking notes, coming to class prepared (having completed the assigned reading) is essential to your success in this class. Material from lectures will be on the mid-term and final exam and will assist you in quizzes and writing assignments. No make-ups will be available for quizzes or short writing assignments. If you are not in class when we complete a quiz or short writing assignment, you will receive a zero. D2L quizzes will have a defined open and closing date. These dates will be announced in class. Also, if you must miss class please arrange to get lecture notes from a classmate.
Lectures and the material covered by reading assignments (both textbook, supplemental reading, and E-Reserves) are not the same. The textbook provides a broad survey of U.S. History. Primary source reading is designed to give depth to this reading and provide you with some of the skills historians use to understand the past. Lectures may be thematic, topical, or local. In order to give you an idea of the ways in which historians examine the past, I will use a wide variety of lectures to show you the breadth of history.

Course Objectives:
We intend that this course will give you the tools to think critically and creatively about the past, about your world, and about your place in it. History is both the content of the past and the craft of examining and writing about it. This class, then, should help you to:
1) communicate your ideas. Both through written work and through classroom discussions, history classes like this one intend to develop your critical thinking skills. We will emphasize developing arguments and presenting evidence to support those arguments.
2) synthesize information. In order to do well in this course, you will need to strengthen your study skills. Taking notes in lecture, outlining and understanding diverse readings, and demonstrating your knowledge in quizzes, exams, and written work will improve your abilities in all subjects – not just history. The skills of the historian – research, analysis, and communication – are skills you need for almost any profession.
3) think about how things came to be the way they are. I hope this course will give you some of the tools to think critically about the ways in which stories that we tell about the past influence our lives. From current political debates to issues of identity, our understanding of the past shapes who we are.

Computer Requirements: Online components of the course will be accessible through Desire2Learn, the online software management system licensed for use by UWSP. To access the site, go to https://uwsp.courses.wisconsin.edu/. From here, you can login using your normal user ID and password. You will then be directed to the D2L homepage, where you can click on History 176 to enter the course. Those students who have difficulty logging in from home may use the university’s computer labs in order to complete all online assignments. E-reserves (additional reading) are also available through D2L. You will also be required to submit some assignments to www.turnitin.com. You will receive further instructions in class and technicians in the computer labs can help you navigate the system. Contact the HELP Desk if you have any technical problems: 346-HELP.

Conduct in Class: Be respectful to your classmates and the instructor during lectures and discussions. Especially in class, please refrain from talking, texting, reading newspapers, leaving early, or any other disruptive behavior. Also, please be sure that cell phones are turned off. For further information on UWSP’s policies regarding student rights and responsibilities, see http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf.

Additional Notes
- Any student who needs special accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course should speak to me as soon as possible or contact the Disability Services Office, 103 Student Services Center, Voice: (715) 346-3365, TTY: (715) 346-3362, http://www.uwsp.edu/special/disability/studentinfo.htm
- Any instance of academic misconduct such as plagiarism or cheating will be pursued fully and aggressively.

Readings:
Your required texts are (or will be) available at the bookstore. Your main textbook is available through text rental. You may be able to purchase the supplemental text on-line at significantly lower cost.
Faragher, Buhle, Czitrom, and Armitage, Out of Many (Available through Text Rental).
Deborah Gray White, Ar’n’t I a Woman? (Purchase or borrow); read as assigned
Additional readings will be available through Desire2Learn, E-Reserves (These readings correspond to the weeks of class, as listed below, and are usually primary source documents or other reading intended to provide depth or context for course topics.)

--This syllabus remains subject to change throughout the semester. Please check your e-mail and our course page on D2L for updates.--
**Week 1**
January 25-29
What Historians Do, Introductions; How to do well in this course;
The Americas in 1491
OOM, Chapter 1; Read this syllabus

**Week 2**
February 1-5
Neo-Europes: The World the Europeans Brought with Them; Exploration
OOM, Chapters 2-3

**Week 3**
February 8-12
Slavery and Great Awakenings
OOM, Chapters 4-5

**Week 4**
February 15-19
The Road to Revolution
OOM, Chapter 6

**Week 5**
February 22-27
The Founding Documents
OOM, Chapter 7

**Week 6**
March 1-5
Lewis and Clark; War of 1812
OOM, Chapters 8-9

**Week 7**
March 8-12
King Cotton and Slavery in the South;
OOM, Chapter 10
March 10 = Review for Mid-Term Exam
March 12 = **Mid-Term Exam**, in class on Friday

**Week 8**
March 15-19
Jacksonian America; Rise of Political Parties
OOM Chapter 11
Begin Reading *Ar’n’t I a Woman?*

**SPRING BREAK**
Week 9
March 29-April 2
Industrial Revolution and Its Discontents
OOM Chapter 12
Continue Reading Ar’nt I a Woman?

Week 10
April 5-9
Origins of Abolition and Women’s Rights Movements
OOM Chapter 13
Finish Reading Ar’nt I a Woman

Week 11
April 12-16
Expansion West, Overland Travel
OOM: Chapter 14

Week 12
April 19-23
Road to the Civil War
OOM: Chapter 15
Reading Quiz

Week 13
April 26-30
Perspectives on the Civil War
OOM: Chapter 16
“Hollywood and History”
Papers Due April 30th.
Also, don’t forget to submit your papers to www.turnitin.com
Papers not submitted to turnitin will not be graded.

Week 14
May 3-7
Reconstruction, Revolution, and Remembering
OOM: Chapter 17

Week 15
May 10-14
War is Over: Reconstruction, Continued.
Final Exam Review
No additional Reading

Final Exam
Section 2 = Tuesday, May 18, 12:30
Section 3 = Wednesday, May 19, 2:45