

HIST 240: US History to 1865

On Demand

Instructor Information

Dr. Kate Brown

kate.brown@wku.edu

Email is the best way to contact me; I usually respond quickly and within 24 hours.

I will be available for virtual office hours on Mondays from 9:15am-10:15am CT.

Please use this Zoom link: <https://wku.zoom.us/j/93003510737>

Course Description

A survey of the political, social, cultural, and economic phases of American life to the Civil War.

Course Objectives

We will aim to achieve two ESSENTIAL objectives throughout our course:

- 1) **Gaining factual knowledge** through lectures, readings, and historical immersion.
- 2) **Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view** through exploration of primary sources and historical monographs.

Course Goals

This course aims to teach you about the historical events that shaped the United States up through the American Civil War (and shaped the country as we know it today!). Most importantly, this course aims to teach you how to think critically about primary sources from the past and historians' arguments about the past.

Course Materials

The following four texts are required, and they can be purchased in both **hardcopy and e-reader versions** (for example, as a Kindle book) at the WKU Bookstore or through online book vendors:

- Hardcopy or ETextbook of *The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People*, **Ninth edition, Volume 1, To 1877**
 - Authors: Paul S. Boyer, Clifford E. Clark, Jr., Karen Halttunen, Joseph F. Kett, et. al.
 - ISBN: 9781305861664 (hardcopy) or 9780357689837 (e-textbook)
 - **See publisher's website:** <https://www.cengage.com/c/the-enduring-vision-a-history-of-the-american-people-9e-boyer/9781305861664PF/>
- *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge*, Erica Armstrong Dunbar (Kindle version available)
 - ISBN: 978-1501126413
- *Revolutionary Backlash: Women in Politics in the Early Republic*, Rosemarie Zagarri (Kindle version available)
 - ISBN: 978-0812220735
- *Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves, and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia*, Woody Holton (Kindle version available)
 - ISBN: 978-0807847848

Graded Assignments

- 15 multiple choice (timed) chapter quizzes (5 pts each = 75 pts total)
 - Note: the chapter quizzes test your knowledge after reading each chapter. They are timed (10 minutes to complete 5 questions), but you may use your textbook and notes from the textbook to help you take the quizzes. You may not consult outside sources when you take these quizzes.
- 6 short answer question sets (not timed) about primary sources (5 pts each = 30 pts total)
- 3 precis assignments (summary of each historical monograph assigned) (10 pts each = 30 pts total)
- 1 historiographical essay (two drafts due; 1500-2000 words) (15 pts)

Total = 150 points available to earn

Feedback will be provided to you after every assignment is completed; also, I require that you submit a draft for the historiographical essay and incorporate that feedback into the final draft (the final draft will be graded).

This course is out of 150 possible points. Your final course grade will be calculated based on adding together the points you earn on each assignment, as a percentage out of 150 possible points.

Grade Scale

A (roughly 135-150 points) – Exceptional work; pays excellent attention to, and clearly achieves, the goals of the assignment (especially pertaining to the student's analytical efforts and written work)

B (roughly 120-134 points) – Good work; shows a significant achievement of the goals of the assignment

C (roughly 105-119 points) – Adequate work; demonstrates a basic effort to achieve the goals of the assignment

D (roughly 90-104 points) – Less-than-adequate work, demonstrates inadequate attention to the goals of the assignment

F (roughly below 90 points) -- Unacceptable work; demonstrates an outright failure to meet the goals of the assignment

Notices Relating to Online Course Formats:

Make sure you know how to use Blackboard: If you have not used Blackboard before, I highly advise that you contact WKU IT Help Desk to complete a Blackboard Student User Training Module.

Blackboard Help/WKU IT Help Desk: 270-745-7000

You can also sign up by signing into Blackboard, clicking the IT TRAINING tab (black with white writing, at the top. Look for IT Blackboard Student User Training.

WKU Online Student Resource Center: [WKU Student Resource Center](http://www.wku.edu/online/src/)
(<http://www.wku.edu/online/src/>)

Other items needed for an online class (in addition to the course materials described above):

- Access to a computer (your own) with a reliable Internet connection
- Microsoft Word in docx, file format
- The texts assigned for this course (online versions or hardcopies)

Course Policies

Technology & Due Dates (Late Work)

All required work will be completed online. You will submit your work through Blackboard, with the exception of your historiographical essay drafts (you will email those to Dr. Brown at kate.brown@wku.edu).

Announcements

I will use email and Blackboard announcements as a way of communicating to the entire class during the course. For individual communications, I will use email or comments posted to your discussion posts. Please look out for email and Blackboard communications from me.

Work Submission

All work will be submitted via our course site on Blackboard or email (for the historiographical essay drafts), and must be submitted in the appropriate docx format (or they will not be graded).

Failure of Technology

It happens. Plan for it in advance. Late work will NOT be accepted if you submit it after your extended on-demand course term has ended, even if it is late because your laptop/internet connection/electricity, etc. malfunctioned. The only exception to this is if the Blackboard platform is inaccessible to WKU users.

If you find that Blackboard is having issues, contact the IT Help Desk at 270-745-7000.

Civility and Respectful Behavior

You are expected to express your opinions freely, but respectfully and civilly. If you disagree with me or your fellow classmate, you are expected to do so respectfully. Foul language, slurs, name-calling and other discourse deemed by me to be uncivil will not be tolerated and may result in an automatic failure for that assignment, or an automatic failure from the course.

On Plagiarism and Academic Honesty and Integrity

Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and all assignments must be your original work, produced for this course. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty where a student either intentionally or unintentionally uses the words/wording and/or ideas of another without proper citation (that is, without proper acknowledgement—see Dr. Brown for the proper way to cite information). This improper use of another's words/wording/ideas/information gives a false or misleading impression that the material is original to the student. Plagiarism will result in an automatic **zero** on the plagiarized assignment, and possibly an automatic F in the course. Plagiarism also violates WKU's Student Code of Conduct:

“The Student Code of Conduct educates students about appropriate behavior and fosters a community in which academic success can occur. The following Student Codes of Conduct are the regulations that apply to ALL WKU students, including the satellite campuses: ...

1. Dishonesty. Dishonesty, such as cheating, plagiarism, misrepresenting of oneself or an organization, knowingly furnishing false information to the University, or omitting relevant or necessary information to gain a benefit, to injure, or to defraud is prohibited.”

Because plagiarism is a serious offense, please see Dr. Brown with any and all questions you have when in doubt—and, if in doubt, cite! (See the History Department's Style Sheet available at the [History Department's Style Sheet](https://www.wku.edu/history/writing/writing-citations.php), at <https://www.wku.edu/history/writing/writing-citations.php>).

Note that common oversights **that count as plagiarism include**: using someone else's words/phrases/sentences precisely—or almost precisely (e.g. copying their quote and changing around a few words) or paraphrasing their thought—counts as plagiarism unless you use quotes (to indicate direct copying of their words) and/or you include a footnote with a citation to the source of the idea/thoughts/words. If the words, thoughts, phrases, ideas, sentences, etc. are not your own then you **MUST** cite the source of those words, thoughts, phrases, ideas, sentences, etc. or you will be plagiarizing.

As a student at WKU, you are expected to adhere to the university's “Student Life Policies on Student Rights and Responsibilities” in the Student Handbook. This document is available online at Student Rights and Responsibilities at <https://www.wku.edu/studentconduct/student-rights-responsibilities.php>.

A Statement on Title IX Policy

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070), the Title IX Policy and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040), and the Discrimination and Harassment Policy. Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center (<https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/>) at 270-745-3159.

A Statement on Student Disability Services and the ADA

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

See [Syllabus Info](https://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/) (<https://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/>) for other helpful links and information.

A Note on the Syllabus...

Dr. Brown reserves the right to add to, subtract from, and otherwise modify this syllabus at any time.

Course Schedule

Required work:

- Send an email to Dr. Brown introducing yourself and she will introduce you to the course (kate.brown@wku.edu)
- Read chapters 1-15 of *Enduring Visions*, volume 1
- 15 chapter quizzes
- 6 primary source short answer sets
- 3 precis assignments
- 1 final historiographical paper

The course follows a chronological format, beginning from Chapter 1 of your *Enduring Vision* textbook and ending with Chapter 15.

Here is a suggested schedule for you to follow once you join the course:

Beginning Week 1, when you join the course and assemble your course materials, read Chapter 1 of *Enduring Vision* and take the associated chapter quiz. **Continue reading one chapter a week (and taking the associated quizzes) from Week 1 through Week 15.**

The primary source short answer sets should be completed when you read the associated chapters—that is, chapters 3, 7, 9, 12, 14, and 15. **Ideally, those primary source short answer sets should be completed during Weeks 3, 7, 9, 12, 14, and 15.**

The three historical monographs assigned are best read in conjunction with the *Enduring Vision* textbook, after you read the most relevant chapters in *Enduring Vision*. And so, a suggested reading schedule for the historical monographs is:

Forced Founders: read after you finish *Enduring Vision* chapter 5, beginning Week 5 or 6

Never Caught: read after you finish *Enduring Vision* chapter 7, beginning Week 7 or 8

Revolutionary Backlash: read after finish *Enduring Vision* chapter 10, beginning Week 10 or 11

You should not begin writing the historiographical paper until you have completed reading *Enduring Vision* chapter 15 (and taking the associated quiz) and the three historical monographs. You will write a draft of the essay, submit it to Dr. Brown via email. Dr. Brown will give you feedback on that draft within a week's time; after you receive the feedback, you must incorporate it into your final draft, which should also be submitted by email. This should be the last assignment you complete for the course.