Course Description: This course surveys the history of the United States from the founding of the federal union to the War with Mexico in 1848. Key themes include: the on-going struggle over citizenship, the meaning and implications of national manifest destiny, discourses of slavery (and race) and freedom, the emergence of a middle-class language of national virtue, and the evolution of a democratic political economy. Our goal is to develop an informed critical perspective on the founding era of the national history of the United States.

Course Requirements: We expect you to attend lecture and discussion section regularly and to come to all classes prepared to participate. Please note that readings are due on the date for which they are listed. In addition, you’ll write two 5-page papers and take a midterm examination and a final examination. We will calculate your final grade as follows:

- Attendance and Participation in Section and Lecture: 20%
- 2 5-page papers @ 20% each: 40%
- Midterm: 20%
- Final Examination: 20%

Please note that unexplained absences, late work, and/or a lack of preparation will lower your grade.

Required Books (available at A Room of One’s Own Bookstore):
Lori Ginzberg, *Women in Antebellum Reform*
Reginald Horsman, *The New Republic: The United States of America 1789-1815*
Theda Perdue and Michael D. Green, eds., *The Cherokee Removal: A Brief History with Documents*
Harry Watson, *Liberty and Power*
Sean Wilentz, ed., *David Walker's Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World*

In addition, we will ask you to purchase a course reader at Bob’s Copy Shop, University Square Mall.

**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**Thursday September 2:** Introductions

**Tuesday September 7:** The United States in 1789

**Topics:** The People

The Place

The “Nation” as Depicted in the Constitution

**Reading Due:** Reginald Horsman, *The Early Republic*, pp. 4-20.

Articles I-VII, US Constitution (Available online at the Avalon Project)

**Thursday September 9:** A Discourse of Inclusion, and Exclusion

**Topics:** The Concept of Political Virtue

**Reading Due:** William Manning, excerpt from “The Key of Liberty” (READER)

Thomas Jefferson, excerpt from Notes on the State of Virginia (Online, go to the
Click on Brotherly Love > Resource bank > Growth and Entrenchment of Slavery >
Jefferson’s Notes on the State of Virginia)


**Tuesday September 14:** Local Identities/National Politicians

**Topics:** The Process of Ratification
The Bill of Rights

Creating a Government
Reading Due: Reginald Horsman, The Early Republic, pp. 21-34
“A List of Objections to the Constitution, by An Officer of the Late Continental Army” in The Creation of the Constitution: Opposing Viewpoints, William Dudley, ed. (READER)
Bill of Rights (Avalon Project)

Thursday September 16: The New Republic in the World
Topics: Europe 1789-1804
American Exceptionalism
Isolation and Dependency in Foreign Affairs
Reading Due: Reginald Horsman, The Early Republic, pp. 35-51
Washington’s Inaugural Address (Avalon Project)

Tuesday, September 21: The Question of Federal Authority
Topics: Political Parties
Defining the State by Defining the West
Reading: Reginald Horsman, The Early Republic, pp. 52-67

Thursday, September 23: Foreign Policy and Domestic Identity: The Administration of John Adams
Topics: The Quasi-War
XYZ Affair
The Alien and Sedition Acts
Reading Due: Reginald Horsman, The Early Republic, pp. 68-86
The Alien and Sedition Acts, and the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, including the October 1798 draft (Avalon Project >“18th Century Documents”)

Tuesday, September 28: Saint Domingue: Revolution Abroad, Revolution at Home
Topics: The Haitian Revolution

Thursday, September 30: Claiming New Freedoms
Topics: New Religions
Workers
Free African Americans
Reading Due: Reginald Horsman, The Early Republic, pp. 87-121 (NOTE: Two chapters)

Tuesday, October 5: Democratic Republicanism
Topics: The Election of 1800
        The Jeffersonian Vision
        Jeffersonians in Office
Reading Due: Reginald Horsman, The Early Republic, pp. 122-137

FIRST PAPER DUE IN LECTURE:

Thursday, October 7: Hardening Boundaries of Gender and Race
Topics: Women and the Public
        Race, Slavery and Citizenship
        The American Colonization Society
Reading Due: Reginald Horsman, The Early Republic, pp. 138-155

Tuesday, October 12: An Empire for Liberty
Topics: Louisiana Purchase
        Lewis and Clark
        Jefferson’s Indian Policy
Reading Due: Reginald Horsman, The Early Republic, pp. 156-171

Thursday, October 14: Ironies of Isolationism
Topics: The Myth of Neutrality and Isolation
        Curtailing Liberty and Property to Protect Free Trade
        War and Industrialization
Reading Due: Reginald Horsman, The Early Republic, pp. 171-219

Tuesday, October 19: The Miseries of War
Topics: Fighting the War
        The Hartford Convention
Reading Due: Reginald Horsman, The Early Republic, pp. 220-257
“Amendments to the Constitution Proposed by the Hartford Convention, 1814” (Avalon Project)

Thursday, October 21: Post-War America
Topics: The Economy
        Regions
        Slavery and Diaspora
Reading Due: Thomas Dublin, “The Oppressive Hand of Avarice” (READER)
Elizabeth F. Ellet, “Harriet Noble” Pioneer Women of the West (READER)  
Charles Ball, Fifty Years in Chains, excerpt (Online, go to the “Africans in America” home page: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/home.html. Click on Brotherly Love > Resource bank > Growth and Entrenchment of Slavery > Charles Ball’s narrative: Fifty Years in Chains”)  
Harry Watson, Liberty and Power, pp. 1-17

**Tuesday, October 26: MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

**Thursday, October 28: Post-War America: Opportunities and Cautionary Tales**  
Topics:  
- Political Nationalism  
- Religious Perfectionism  
- Filibustering the Land  
- The Missouri Compromise  
- The Panic of 1819  
  
Reading Due: “Monroe Doctrine; December 2, 1823” (Avalon Project > “19th Century Documents”)  
Harry Watson, Liberty and Power, pp. 17-72

**Tuesday, November 2: Sources of a Democratic Discourse**  
Topics:  
- The “Corrupt Bargain”  
  
Theda Perdue and Michael Green, editors, The Cherokee Removal, pp. 1-57

**Thursday, November 4: Native Americans and the Nation**  
Topics:  
- Native Americans and the Nation  
  
Reading Due: Theda Perdue and Michael Green, editors, The Cherokee Removal, Documents, pp. 58-120

**Tuesday, November 9: Dispossession**  
Topics:  
- The Removal Act  
- Surviving Removal  
  
Reading Due: Theda Perdue and Michael Green, editors, The Cherokee Removal, Documents, pp. 121-174

**Thursday, November 11: The Tariff and Nullification**  
Topic:  
- Why focus on the Tariff?  
- The South Carolina Exposition and Protest  
- A Minority Culture  
  
Reading Due: “South Carolina Ordinance of Nullification, November 24, 1832” and “Proclamation on Nullification, December 10, 1832” (Avalon Project >“19th Century Documents”)  
Harry Watson, Liberty and Power, 96-131
Tuesday, November 16: Workers
Topics: The Reorganization of Labor
       Early Organizing
       Reading Due: Seth Luther, “An Address to the Working Men of New England, 1833” (READER)
       David Roediger, “’White Slaves, Wage Slaves, and Free White Labor’” (READER)

Thursday, November 18: A New Middle Class
Topics: The Material Basis of the Middle Class
       The Moral Authority of the Middle Class
       Externalizing Anxiety
       Reading Due: Lori Ginzberg, Women in Antebellum Reform, pp. 1-56

Tuesday, November 23: The Bank War
Topics: The Bank and Economic Expansion
        Jackson and Credit
        The Impact of the Bank War
        The Party System after Jackson
        Reading Due: “Veto Message Regarding the Bank of the United States; July 10, 1832” (Avalon Project >“19th Century Documents” > “Papers of the Presidents of the United States” > “Jackson, Andrew” > “Veto Messages”)
        Lori Ginzberg, Women in Antebellum Reform, pp. 57-89
        Harry Watson, Liberty and Power, 132-197

Thursday, November 25: THANKSGIVING

Tuesday, November 30: Abolition
Topics: A History of Slave Resistance
        Black Abolition
        Anti-slavery Sentiment among Whites
        Reading Due: David Walker, Appeal

Thursday, December 2: An Independent Women’s Rights Movement
Topics: Sources of Discontent: Race, Labor and Reform
       Reinterpreting Seneca Falls
       Reading Due: Lori Ginzberg, Women in Antebellum Reform, pp. 90-121

Tuesday, December 7: Manifest Destiny
Topics: The Tejanos
       Filibustering Texas
       Oregon and California before 1836
       Reading Due: Reginald Horsman, “Anglo-Saxons and Mexicans” and “Race, Expansionism and the Mexican War” in Race and Manifest Destiny, pp. 208-248.
SECOND PAPER DUE IN LECTURE

Thursday, December 9: Overland
  Topics: Westering
         Indians of the Great Plains
  Reading Due: Harry Watson, Liberty and Power, 198-230

Tuesday, December 13: Polk’s “Very Little War” for a Very Large Territory
  Topics: The War with Mexico
          Filibustering California
  Reading Due: Harry Watson, Liberty and Power, pp. 231-253

Thursday, December 15: Henry David Thoreau Meets Lt. Rankin

FRIDAY DEC 17, 2:45 P.M.: FINAL EXAMINATION