The course will be concerned mostly with the mid-nineteenth century, from approximately 1815 to the Civil War. Biographical sketches of varying length--some one lecture, others as many as five or six lectures--will treat various people -- politicians, intellectuals, reformers, businessmen, explorers.

Paperback readings will help fill in the background on certain individuals, exploring the society and the times in which he or she lived.

LECUTRES
Two fifty-minute lectures per week. The third class meeting will involve discussion sections in which lectures and reading assignments will be discussed.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS
There will be two one-hour exams in the course of the semester and a two-hour Final. Exams are essay type. Term papers are not required, but they may be done for extra credit.

GRADING SYSTEM
The exams will be averaged, and the student's performance in discussion section (i.e., the frequency and quality of his or her oral contribution) will count as much as one of the exams.

REQUIRED READINGS
Six paperbacks (averaging 300 pages).