History 400
Representative Americans
Mr. Risjord

Fall, 1992

Required Books

John W. Ward, Andrew Jackson, Symbol for an Age
Nancy Cott, The Bonds of Womanhood
Daniel Boorstin, The National Experience
Stephen Oates, The Fires of Jubilee
Roger Nichols, Blackhawk

Housekeeping

The course will meet three times a week -- two lectures and a discussion section. There will be weekly reading assignments for discussion. Oral performance in the discussion sections will count as much as one of the mid-term exams. There will be two 50-minute exams in the course of the semester and a two-hour final.

Reading Assignments

In addition to the assigned books extra credit can be earned by reading biographies, obtained from the library. Biographies will be assigned in discussion sections, and the assignments will center on a weekly theme, so that student reports will form the basis of class discussions (for instance, "Abolitionists," with biographies of Theodow Weld, the Grimke sisters, James G. Birney, etc). Articles on reserve in the State Historical Society will also be assigned for discussion in the quiz sections.

Unit I. JACKSONIAN POLITICS

Andrew Jackson vs. John Quincy Adams

John W. Ward, Andrew Jackson, Symbol for an Age

Unit II. REFORMERS AND TRANSCENDENTALISTS

Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Frances Wright

Nancy Cott, The Bonds of Womanhood

Unit III. UTOPIAN REFORMERS

John Humphrey Noyes and William Lloyd Garrison

Select biographies
Unit IV. NEGROES, SLAVE AND FREE
Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman
Stephen Oates, The Fires of Jubilee

Unit V. PUBLICISTS AND BUSINESSMEN
P. T. Barnum, Horace Greeley, Commodore Vanderbilt
Daniel Boorstin, The Americans: The National Experience, pp. 1-168

Unit VI. EMPIRE BUILDERS
Jedidiah Smith, Osceola, Joseph Smith, Brigham Young
Roger Nichols, Blackhawk

Unit VII. CIVIL WAR POLITICS
Select biographies