

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

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 Theodor 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

Daniel Boorstin, The Americans: The National Experience, pp. 169-432.

Roger Nichols, Blackhawk

Unit VII. CIVIL WAR POLITICS

Select biographies