

History 391: The Age of Jefferson and Jackson, 1789-1848

Professor Jeanne Boydston
Humanities 5120
608/263-0647
boydston@facstaff.wisc.edu

Teaching Assistant Rob Harper
Humanities 5269
608/263-1868
jharper@wisc.edu

Office Hours: T 11:00-1:00
1:00

Office Hours: R 3:30-4:30, F 12:00-

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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

"Africans in American" home page: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/home.html>.

Click on Brotherly Love > Resource bank > Growth and Entrenchment of Slavery > Jefferson's Notes on the State of Virginia)

Judith Sargent Murray, "On the Equality of the Sexes" in Judith Sargent Murray: A Brief Biography with Documents, Shiela L. Skemp, ed. (Boston, 1998), pp. 176-82.

(READER)

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**)

Topics: Tuesday, September 21: The Question of Federal Authority

Political Parties

Defining the State by Defining the West

Reading: Reginald Horsman, The Early Republic, pp. 52-67

“Alexander Hamilton's Opinion as to the Constitutionality of the Bank of the United States, 1791,” “Thomas Jefferson's Opinion on the Constitutionality of a National Bank, 1791,” and “The Whiskey Rebellion” (**Avalon Project**)

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

Reading Due: Tim Matthewson, “Abraham Bishop, ‘The Rights of Black Men,’ and the American Reaction to the Haitian Revolution,” The Journal of Negro History, Vol. 67, No. 2. (Summer, 1982), pp. 148-154. **(READER)**

Douglas R. Egerton, “Gabriel's Conspiracy and the Election of 1800,” The Journal of Southern History Vol. 56, No. 2. (May, 1990), pp. 191-214. **(READER)**

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

Judith Apter Klinghoffer and Lois Elkis, “‘The Petticoat Electors’: Women’s Suffrage in New Jersey, 1776-1807,” Journal of the Early Republic 12 (Summer 1992): 159-193
(READER)

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

Curtailling 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”

Reading Due: Harry Watson, “A Corrupt Bargain” in Liberty and Power: The Politics of Jacksonian America, pp. 73-95.

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.

(READER)

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