

History 233
Fall 2010
TT 11:30-12:55
Sills 109

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American Society in the New Nation, 1763-1840

This course offers a chronological survey of the social history of the United States from the Revolution to the Age of Jackson. A number of themes organize the first part of the course: the complex social and economic structure of mid-eighteenth century America; various and often divergent cultural and ideological roots of the movement for American independence; the struggle to determine the scope of the Constitution and the political shape of the new republic; and the emergence of and contest over the new social and cultural order and the nature of American “identity” in the early years of nationhood. The second part of the course examines the diverging histories of regions (North, South, and trans-Appalachian West) and peoples (African Americans, Anglo- and Euro-Americans, and Native Americans) in the first half of the nineteenth century. Topics include the evolution and impact of urbanization, industrialization, and the development of new forms of social organization in the North; increasing religious diversity and the Second Great Awakening; the westward expansion of the nation and the continuing contest over land; the southern plantation economy and slave communities; and the growth of the reform impulse in the Jacksonian era as various groups of Americans attempt to grapple with tensions and strains in the new nation.

No prior coursework in revolutionary and early national American history is required. Students will be introduced to the range of historical literature—both monographs (books) and articles—in the field and to the reading and analysis of primary source materials.

Course requirements: The course consists of two class meetings each week. The reading assignments for each class should be completed by that class meeting. (The “further readings” listed in the Reading Guide are not required.) You are expected to attend class and to come to all class meetings and discussion sections prepared to discuss and analyze the readings [20% of final grade]. The History 233 Reading Guide on Blackboard provides questions to help focus your reading for the class discussions as well as electronic links to all of the assigned articles, either through e-reserve or an online Library database. If you miss a discussion section meeting (noted in the syllabus), you are expected to write a thoughtful evaluation (2-3 pages) of the assigned book. You are encouraged to purchase the assigned books from the bookstore; a copy of each of the assigned books is on reserve in the library.

The essay assignments are an integral part of the course. Two critical analyses of primary documents (5-7 pages each) will be due during the semester [together, 40% of final grade]. A final take-home essay (10-12 pages) is due by the scheduled final-exam date for the course [40% of final grade].

All students are expected to read, understand, and abide by The Bowdoin College Academic Honor Code and by the rules of citation described on the Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin Academic Honesty website at <http://library.bowdoin.edu/1st/CBBhonesty.shtml>.

BOOKS: Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography and Selected Writings* (1771-1789)
Robert Gross, *The Minutemen and Their World* (1976; second edition 2001)
Joseph Ellis, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* (2000)
Joel W. Martin, *Sacred Revolt: The Muskogees' Struggle for a New World* (1991)
Sean Wilentz, *Chants Democratic: New York City and the Rise of the American Working Class, 1788-1850* (1984)
Charles Joyner, *Down by the Riverside: A South Carolina Slave Community* ((1984)
Joyce Appleby, *Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans* (2000)

The History 233 Reading Guide and other online resources can be found on Blackboard at <http://blackboard.bowdoin.edu/> or at <http://www.bowdoin.edu/faculty/s/smcMahon/courses/hist233/index.shtml>.

WEEK 1

9/2 INTRODUCTION

WEEK 2

Era of the American Revolution

9/7 REGIONAL VARIATIONS: Economic and Social Structure of Eighteenth-Century American Society

readings: Gloria L. Main, "The Standard of Living in Southern New England, 1640-1773,"

William and Mary Quarterly 3d Ser., 45.1 (1988), 124-134. (JSTOR)

Billy G. Smith, "Inequality in Late Colonial Philadelphia: A Note on its Nature and Growth," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d Ser., 41.4 (1984), 629-645. (JSTOR)

Rhys Isaac, "Evangelical Revolt: The Nature of the Baptists' Challenge to the Traditional Order in Virginia, 1765 to 1775," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd. Ser., 31.3. (1974), 345-368. (JSTOR)

9/9 *Discussion*: PROVINCIAL MENTALITY In The Eighteenth Century

reading: Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography* (1771-1789). *Note*: if you are reading the Dover Thrift Edition, read Franklin's Outline last.

Guidelines for Writing a Critical Analysis of a Primary Document (LINK)

WEEK 3

9/14 UNREST: Imperial Decisions and Colonial Reactions

reading: Pauline Maier, "Popular Uprisings and Civil Authority in Eighteenth-Century America,"

William and Mary Quarterly 3d. Ser., 27.1 (1970), 3-35. (JSTOR)

History 233: Collections of Primary Documents (LINK)

Extension Policy (LINK)

9/16 "ORIGINS" OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

reading: Gordon S. Wood, "Conspiracy and the Paranoid Style: Causality and Deceit in the

Eighteenth Century," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d Ser., 39.3 (1982), 401-441. (JSTOR)

WEEK 4

9/21 *Discussion*: REBELLION - REVOLUTION

reading: Robert Gross, *The Minutemen and Their World* (1976)

9/23 GUN CULTURE, HISTORICAL METHODS, AND ACADEMIC HONESTY

reading: James Lindgren, "Fall From Grace: Arming America and the Bellesiles Scandal," *Yale Law Journal* 111.8 (June 2002). (JSTOR)

further reading: Michael Bellesiles, "The Origins of Gun Culture in the United States, 1760-1865," *Journal of American History* 83.2. (1996), 425-455. (JSTOR)

Forum: "Historians and Guns," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d Ser., 59.1 (2002), 203-268. (JSTOR)

WEEK 5

The New Republic

9/28 FRAMING THE NEW REPUBLIC: Federalists, Anti-Federalists, and the Constitution

readings: Isaac Kramnick, "The Great National Discussion: The Discourse of Politics in 1787,"

William and Mary Quarterly 3d Ser., 45.1 (1988), 3-32. (JSTOR)

Alfred F. Young, "The Framers of the Constitution and the 'Genius' of the People," *Radical History Review* 45 (1988), 8-18; reprinted in Sean Wilentz, ed., *Major Problems in the Early Republic, 1787-1848* (1992), 53-60. (e-reserve)

- 9/30 JEFFERSONIAN AMERICA: Toward a “Republican” Vision
reading: John R. Howe, “Republican Thought and the Political Violence of the 1790s,” *American Quarterly* 19.2, Part I (1967), 147-165. (JSTOR)

First Critical Analysis due (primary document written between 1763 and 1800)

WEEK 6

- 10/5 *Discussion*: THE REVOLUTIONARY GENERATION
reading: Joseph Ellis, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* (2000)
- 10/7 AMERICAN SOCIETY IN TRANSITION: Changing Systems of Hierarchy and Association
readings: Daniel Vickers, “Competency and Competition: Economic Culture in Early America,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d. Ser., 47.1 (1990), 3-29. (JSTOR)
Kathleen Smith Kutolowski, “Freemasonry and Community in the Early Republic: The Case for Antimasonic Anxieties,” *American Quarterly* 34.5 (1982), 543-561. (JSTOR)

WEEK 7

10/12 Fall Break

The Early Nineteenth Century: Urbanization, Industrialization, Modernization

- 10/14 THE WAR OF 1812 AND THE ERA OF GOOD FEELINGS: American Identity, Economic Nationalism, Regional Economic Specialization
readings: Clinton Rossiter, “Nationalism and American Identity in the Early Republic,” from Rossiter, *The American Quest: An Emerging Nation in Search of Identity* (1971); reprinted in Sean Wilentz, ed., *Major Problems in the Early Republic, 1787-1848* (1992), 14-22. (e-reserve)
Roger H. Brown, “The War of 1812 and the Struggle for Political Permanency,” from Brown, *The Republic in Peril: 1812* (1964); reprinted in Sean Wilentz, ed., *Major Problems in the Early Republic, 1787-1848* (1992), 170-177. (e-reserve)
Steven Watts, “The Liberal Impulse to War,” from Watts, *The Republic Reborn: War and the Making of Liberal America, 1790-1820* (1987); reprinted in Sean Wilentz, ed., *Major Problems in the Early Republic, 1787-1848* (1992), 177-186. (e-reserve)

WEEK 8

- 10/19 THE NORTHEAST: Changing Spatial Relationships and the Rise of the City
readings: Simeon J. Crowther, “Urban Growth in the Mid-Atlantic States, 1785-1850,” *Journal of Economic History* 36.3 (1976), 624-644. (JSTOR)
Gary B. Nash, “The Social Evolution of Preindustrial American Cities, 1700-1820: Reflections and New Directions,” *Journal of Urban History* 13 (1987), 115-145. (e-reserve)
- 10/21 THE RISE OF THE URBAN “MIDDLE CLASS” FAMILY
readings: Jan Lewis, “The Republican Wife: Virtue and Seduction in the Early Republic,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d Ser., 44.4 (1987), 689-721. (JSTOR)
Linda Kerber, “The Paradox of Women’s Citizenship in the Early Republic: The Case of *Martin vs. Massachusetts, 1805*,” *American Historical Review* 97.2 (1992), 349-378. (JSTOR)

WEEK 9

- 10/26 REPUBLICAN RELIGION: The Evangelical Age and the Second Great Awakening
readings: Mary Kupiec Cayton, “Who Were the Evangelicals?: Conservative and Liberal Identity in the Unitarian Controversy in Boston, 1804-1833,” *Journal of Social History* 31.1 (1997), 85-107. (JSTOR)
John H. Wigger, “Taking Heaven by Storm: Enthusiasm and Early American Methodism, 1770-1820,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 14 (1994), 167-194. (e-reserve)

10/28 *Discussion: NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGION AND CULTURE IN THE NEW REPUBLIC*
reading: Joel Martin, *Sacred Revolt* (1991)

WEEK 10

11/2 INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY

readings: Thomas Dublin, "Women Workers and the Study of Social Mobility," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 9:4 (1979), 647-665. (JSTOR)
Mary H. Blewett, "Work, Gender and the Artisan Tradition in New England Shoemaking, 1780-1860," *Journal of Social History* 17.2 (1983), 221-248. (JSTOR)

11/4 *Discussion: WORKING-CLASS CULTURE*

reading: Sean Wilentz, *Chants Democratic* (1984). Note: read Parts I-III (3-216); skim Parts IV-VI (219-396).

Week 11

11/9 THE OPENING OF THE TRANS-APPALACHIAN WEST

reading: Frederick Jackson Turner, Presidential Address: "The Significance of the Frontier in American History," American Historical Association, 1893, reprinted as Chapter 1 in *The Frontier in American History* (1921), 1-18). American Studies at the University of Virginia Hypertext. (LINK)

Second Critical Analysis due (primary document written between 1801 and 1840)

Toward the Mid-Nineteenth Century

11/11 SOUTHERN ECONOMY AND THE PLANTATION SYSTEM

reading: Eugene D. Genovese and Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, "The Slave Economies in Political Perspective," *Journal of American History* 66.1 (1979), 7-23. (JSTOR)

WEEK 12

11/16 *Discussion: SLAVE COMMUNITIES AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE*

reading: Charles Joyner, *Down by the Riverside* (1984)

11/18 THE REFORM IMPULSE: Old Ideals and New Realities

reading: Paul E. Johnson, "Class, Liquor, and Reform in Rochester," from Johnson, *A Shopkeeper's Millennium* (1978); reprinted in Sean Wilentz, *Major Problems in the Early Republic, 1787-1848* (1992), 448-454. (e-reserve)

Week 13

11/23 THE ERA OF BAD FEELINGS

readings: Richard H. Brown, "The Missouri Crisis, Slavery, and the Politics of Jacksonianism," *South Atlantic Quarterly* 65 (1966); reprinted in Sean Wilentz, *Major Problems in the Early Republic, 1787-1848* (1992), 351-359. (e-reserve)

Ronald P. Formisano, "Social Development and Political Parties from 1789 to 1828," from *The Transformation of Political Culture: Massachusetts Parties, 1790-1840* (1983); reprinted in Sean Wilentz, *Major Problems in the Early Republic, 1787-1848* (1992), 359-365. (e-reserve)

John William Ward, "The Political Cultures of 1828," from Ward, *Andrew Jackson: Symbol for an Age* (1955, 1983); reprinted in Sean Wilentz, *Major Problems in the Early Republic, 1787-1848* (1992), 365-370. (e-reserve)

11/25 Thanksgiving Break

WEEK 14

11/30 THE PERFECTIONIST IMPULSE IN ANTEBELLUM REFORM: Utopian Alternatives

reading: Carl J. Guarneri, "Reconstructing the Antebellum Communitarian Movement: Oneida and Fourierism," *Journal of the Early Republic* 16 (1996), 463-488. (e-reserve)

12/2 *Discussion*: INHERITING THE REVOLUTION

reading: Joyce Appleby, *Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans* (2000)

WEEK 15

12/7 THE JACKSONIAN PERSUASION: Abolitionism, Feminism and Jacksonian Politics as Responses to American Society

readings: Vincent Gordon Harding, "Wrestling toward the Dawn: The Afro-American Freedom Movement and the Changing Constitution" *Journal of American History* 74.3 (1987), 718-739. (JSTOR)

Ellen Carol Dubois, "Outgrowing the Compact of the Fathers: Equal Rights, Woman Suffrage, and the United States Constitution, 1820-1878," *Journal of American History* 74.3 (1987), 836-863. (JSTOR)

12/9 JACKSONIAN "DEMOCRACY": Toward Mid-Nineteenth-Century America

Final Take-home Essay: due Sunday, December 19, noon