

History 212: Democracy in America
Fall 2017

Monday & Wednesday 1:00-2:20 pm

Bucksbaum 152

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 1-2:30 pm, Wednesday 10 am-12 pm, Friday 1-2:30 pm, and by appointment. I am always happy to make time for you on an individual basis. Please come see me during office hours or make an appointment. Feel free to call or e-mail any time if you have problems or questions.

Course Objectives

Course Focus:

This course examines United States history between 1789 and 1848, a time of deep contradiction in American life and a period of particularly rapid social, political, economic, and cultural change. Our task this semester will be to discover how and why these changes were important and how Americans experienced them. Together, we will examine how a unique American political culture formed in the period between the formation of the first federal government and the Mexican-American War. We will investigate everything from the creation of political parties, to the rise of capitalism, to taste in furniture styles in order to uncover how diverse Americans lived their lives and how they understood the world around them.

The course will focus specifically on the creation of party politics, reform movements, economic growth and class conflict, expansionism, race, and gender in the period. In our investigation of political culture, we will particularly examine the tensions created in American society by the simultaneous rise of “democracy” and demands for rights by those who continued to be excluded from various forms of power. We will attempt to discover how American democracy was created and what it meant to people between 1789 and 1848.

Skills Objectives:

This course challenges students to form their own arguments about the past as they examine primary sources and evaluate how other historians have composed their arguments. Students will enhance their skills at critical thinking, research, reading, speaking, writing, and developing arguments as they engage in a dialogue with the past. We will all learn how to become better historians this semester.

In paper assignments, students in this course will work on strengthening their abilities to revise, to analyze coherently, to argue from sources (both primary and secondary), and to use appropriate grammar and style. Historians, as the members of a specific academic discipline, use particular conventions in their writing. Students will learn to recognize

many of these conventions in their readings and will integrate historical research skills and writing as they learn strategies to improve their own written work.

Texts:

Joyce Appleby, *Recollections of the Early Republic* (Northeastern University Press, 1997)

David Brion Davis, *Antebellum American Culture: An Interpretive Anthology* (Penn State UP, 1997) – Optional purchase. Most of the text is on GOOGLE BOOKS.

Paul Johnson, *The Early American Republic* (Oxford UP, 2007)

Paul Johnson and Sean Wilentz, *The Kingdom of Matthias*, 2nd Ed. (Oxford UP, 2012)

Herman Melville, *Bartleby and Benito Cereno* (Dover, 1990)

Henry David Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience and Other Essays* (Dover, 1993)

Harry L. Watson, *Liberty and Power*, Updated Ed. (Hill & Wang, 2006)

Ashli White, *Encountering Revolution* (Johns Hopkins, 2010)

Note: We will also be using many digitized book chapters and articles. It is your responsibility to print these out and bring them to class with you (or to bring them on a portable device that is not disruptive to class).

Student Responsibilities and Evaluation:

Our class meetings will be comprised primarily of discussion and in-class exercises with an occasional lecture for context, so it is essential that students attend class having done the assigned reading and ready to discuss it. The class has a lot of reading assignments, so please ask for help with reading strategies anytime. Our object will be to gain deep insight about the reading in class. Everyone has something to contribute, so speak up, and share your ideas with your classmates!

All papers for this class must be typed, double-spaced, in a 10 or 12-point font with footnotes or endnotes in University of Chicago style. Additional paper guidelines will be discussed in class. Note: papers must be turned in on time. Any paper that is turned in late without a prior-approved extension granted by the instructor will be docked half a letter-grade per day.

Class participation is very important in this class, so attendance is essential. You cannot participate if you are not in class.

Grades will be assigned according to the following formula:

article paper	10%
5 page papers	17.5% each
research note	10%
class participation	20%
take-home final	25%

Improvement over the course of the semester will help your grade.

If you need to miss class for sickness, emergency, extra-curricular activities, or athletics, please let Ms. Purcell know as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to make up the work you miss.

You are expected to abide by Grinnell College standards of academic honesty in this class. Please consult the Student Handbook or speak with Ms. Purcell if you need a refresher on academic honesty.

Grinnell College grants reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you require accommodation, please contact Ms. Purcell as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Schedule, Topics, and Assignments

Monday (Aug 28) The Legacy of the American Revolution

Before class please watch the following video: "Gordon S. Wood, The Significance of the American Revolution,"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmarYRfJ60A> (3 minutes) & Listen to the following podcast: "Ben Franklin's World: Episode 62 Carol Berkin, The Bill of Rights," <https://www.benfranklinworld.com/episode-062-carol-berkin-the-bill-of-rights/> (48 minutes)

Wednesday (Aug 30) The Rise of Party Politics: The First Party System

Reading Due: Watson, Liberty and Power, Introduction; Johnson Early American Republic, pp. ix-29

Monday (Sep 4) Federal Style: Politics & Material Culture

*Reading Due: **E-Reserve:** Rosemarie Zagarri, "Gender and the First Party System" in Federalists Reconsidered, ed. Doron Ben-Atar & Barbara Oberg (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1998), pp. 118-134; newspaper excerpts; Watch this video: "This Is Not a Chair,"*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MurjslsVJuo> (8 minutes)

Wednesday (Sep 6) Jefferson in Power

RESEARCH LAB: How Historians Use Articles

*Reading Due: Johnson, Early American Republic, pp. 30-39; **JSTOR:** Joanne Freeman, "Dueling as Politics: Re-interpreting the Burr Hamilton Duel," William and Mary Quarterly 53 (April 1996): 289-319*

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2947402>; Marbury v. Madison "Opinion" and "Annotation" (be sure to click both tabs) found at U.S. Supreme Court, Justia website: <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/5/137/#annotation>

Monday (Sep 11) The Politics and Experience of Slavery in the Early Republic

Reading Due: Johnson, Early American Republic, 84-109; Charles Ball in

Recollections, pp. 103-129; *Antebellum Culture*, pp. 273-278

Wednesday (Sep 13) The U.S. and the Haitian Revolution

Reading Due: Ashli White, *Encountering Revolution* (entire book); Browse Website: "In Motion" Haitian Immigration: 18th and 19th Centuries
<http://www.inmotionaame.org/migrations/landing.cfm?migration=5>

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 5:00 PM ARTICLE PAPER DUE IN PIONEERWEB

Monday (Sep 18) The U.S. and North Africa

Reading Due: **E-Reserve:** Craig Symonds, "A Squadron of Observation: Thomas Jefferson and America's First War against Terrorism," *White House Studies* 4 (2004): 125-136,
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=31h&AN=45860524&site=ehost-live> ; Robert Battistini, "Glimpses of the Other before Orientalism: The Muslim World in Early American Periodicals," *Early American Studies* 8 (2010): 446-474,
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=31h&AN=48634764&site=ehost-live>

Wednesday (Sep 20) Gender, "Republican Womanhood," & Education for a New Republic

Reading Due: Julia Anne Hieronymous Tevis in *Recollections*, pp. 68-102; John Ball in *Recollections*, pp. 1-17; Harriet B. Cooke in *Recollections*, pp. 223-243; **JSTOR:** Lucia McMahon, "Of the Utmost Importance to Our Country: Women, Education, and Society, 1790-1820," *Journal of the Early Republic* 29 (2009): 475-506,
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=31h&AN=43442440&site=ehost-live>

Monday (Sep 25) Westward Expansion, Indian Responses

Reading Due: **JSTOR:** Robert M. Owens, "Jeffersonian Benevolence on the Ground: The Indian Land Cession Treaties of William Henry Harrison," *Journal of the Early Republic* 22 (2002): 405-435, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3124810>
Allen Trimble in *Recollections*, pp. 186-222; *Speeches* (distributed in class)

Wednesday (Sep 27) The War of 1812

Reading Due: Johnson, *Early American Republic*, pp. 40-53; **Project MUSE:** Paul A. Gilje, "Free Trade and Sailors' Rights: The Rhetoric of the War of 1812," *Journal of the Early American Republic* 30 (2010): 1-23,
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=31h&AN=47776537&site=ehost-live>;
Listen to: "Backstory Radio: 1812, Which One Was That?"
<http://backstoryradio.org/shows/the-war-of-1812-2>

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 5:00 PM 5-PAGE PAPER DUE IN PIONEERWEB

Monday (Oct 2) The Rise of Markets

Reading Due: Johnson, *Early American Republic*, pp. 54-83; Review Allen Trimble in *Recollections*, pp. 186-222

Wednesday (Oct 4) American Manufacturing & The Rise of Class Consciousness
Reading Due: Watson, Liberty and Power, Ch. 1; Chauncey Jerome in Recollections, pp. 159-185; Antebellum Culture, pp. 85-88

Monday (Oct 9) The Era of Good Feelings?
Reading Due: Johnson, Early American Republic, pp. 136-159

RESEARCH LAB: How To Use a Newspaper Database

Wednesday (Oct 12) Jacksonian Politics
Reading Due: Watson, Liberty and Power, Ch. 2-5; Antebellum Culture, pp. 187-201, 231-251

FRIDAY OCTOBER 13 5:00 PM REVISED PAPER DUE IN PIONEERWEB

FALL BREAK OCTOBER 14-OCTOBER 22

Monday (Oct 23) The Second Great Awakening and Perfectionism
Reading Due: Johnson, Early American Republic, pp. 110-134; Antebellum Culture, pp. 367-379 & 389-391; Alfred Lorrain in Recollections, pp. 244-276

Wednesday (Oct 25) The Second Party System
Reading Due: Watson, Liberty and Power, Ch. 6-Ch. 8

Monday (Oct 30) The Kingdom of Matthias
Reading Due: Johnson and Wilentz, The Kingdom of Matthias (entire book)

Wednesday (Nov 1) Enslaved Life, Free Life & The Politics of Anti-Slavery
*Reading Due: Antebellum Culture, pp. 283-325; **J-STOR book chapter:** Lisa A. Lindsay, "Scipio Vaughan's South Carolina," Atlantic Bonds (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017), 13-42, http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9781469631134_lindsay.4*

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3 4:30 PM RESEARCH NOTE DUE IN PIONEERWEB

Monday (Nov 6) The "Cult of True Womanhood" and Class
*Reading Due: Antebellum Culture, pp. 13-20, 73-83, 385-389; **JSTOR:** Elizabeth R. Varon, "Tippecanoe and the Ladies Too: Whig Womanhood and Party Politics in Antebellum Virginia," Journal of American History 82 (1995): 494-521, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2082184>; **SKIM:** Barbara Welter, "The Cult of True Womanhood, 1820-1860," American Quarterly Summer 1966: 151-174, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2711179>.*

Wednesday (Nov 8) Abolitionism
*Reading Due: **JSTOR book:** Gerda Lerner, The Grimké Sisters from South Carolina, Introduction (http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9780807868096_lerner.5) & pp.*

3-115 (http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9780807868096_lerner.6) ; *Antebellum Culture*, pp. 418-428

Monday (Nov 13) The Women's Rights Movement

Reading Due: JSTOR book: Lerner, Grimké Sisters, pp. 116-264

(http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9780807868096_lerner.6); *Antebellum Culture*, pp. 88-97

Wednesday (Nov 15) Reform or Social Control?: Education and Temperance

Reading Due: Antebellum Culture, pp. 29-32, 35-55, 393-409

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17

Monday (Nov 20) Foreign Observers of American Democracy

Reading Due: Johnson, Early American Republic, pp. 161-165; Antebellum Culture, pp. 105-109, 121-122; additional Tocqueville, Dickens, Trollope excerpts

Wednesday (Nov 22) No class meeting 5:00 PM 5-PAGE PAPER DUE IN P-WEB

THANKSGIVING NOVEMBER 23

Monday (Nov 27) Transcendentalism and Nature

Reading Due: Thoreau, "Walking," pp. 49-74; Antebellum Culture, pp. 456-457

Wednesday (Nov 29) Manifest Destiny

Reading Due: Antebellum Culture, pp. 129-144, 262-265, 459-461; JSTOR: Julius W. Pratt, "The Origin of 'Manifest Destiny,'" American Historical Review 32 (July 1927): 795-798, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1837859>; JSTOR book chapter: Rachel A. Sheldon, "Not So Strange Bedfellows, Northern and Southern Whigs and the Texas Annexation Controversy, 1844-45," A Political Nation (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2012), 11-35, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt6wrhqt.5>

Monday (Dec 4) The Mexican-American War & Uneasy Settlement

Reading Due: Antebellum Culture, pp. 201-208, 253-262; Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience," pp. 1-18

Wednesday (Dec 6) Age of Progress or Age of Disaffection?

*Reading Due: Melville, Bartleby; Watson, Liberty & Power, *Afterward: Questions & Controversies**

**TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 2:00 PM
at Prof. Purcell's office: Mears 212**