

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Department of History  
Semester I, 1986-87

History 301

Professor Paul Boyer

History of American Thought and Culture, 1620-1865

Assigned Reading

The total assigned reading for this course averages about 100 pages per week. However, this reading is not evenly divided on a weekly basis; some weeks have heavy reading, others little or none. In particular, note that one very long novel of some 550 pages--Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin--has been assigned for the last week. Obviously you should not leave the reading of this novel until the last week, but be reading it periodically as the semester progresses. In general, you should plan to read at least 100 pages per week, even if this moves you slightly ahead of the sequence listed below, in order to keep up with the reading in this course.

Some of these assigned readings--e.g., Franklin and Thoreau, will seem extremely "easy"--perhaps deceptively so. Others--the Puritans, Margaret Fuller, perhaps Stowe--may seem so alien in style and sensibility that you have trouble becoming involved. I urge you to persevere, however. Learning to bridge this stylistic chasm is, in fact, part of what is involved in beginning to understand a culture very different from our own.

Note: Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter, listed on the syllabus, will not be assigned this semester. My apologies to those of you who have already purchased this book. I trust you will be able to return it for credit or exchange.

Sequence of Readings:

- Week of Sept. 1: Perry Miller (Ed.), The American Puritans, pp. 78-83, 84-93, 116-121, 143-152, 171-182.
- Week of Sept. 8: Ibid., pp. 182-191, 215-221.
- Week of Sept. 15: R. Jackson Wilson (Ed.), The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, pp. 7-34, 42-47, 54-57, 61-86, 97-122, 129-131, 147-152, 157-162.
- Week of Sept. 22: David Brion Davis (Ed.), Antebellum American Culture, pp. 187-198.
- Week of Sept. 29: Donald McQuade (Ed.), Selected Writings of Emerson, pp. xlvi-lii (James Kirke Paulding and Thomas Cole documents).
- Week of Oct. 6: Thomas Bender (Ed.), Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, pp. 145-158, 195-198, 294-297, 324-326, 333-344, 347-354, 395-408, 422-438, 450-454, 455-459, 484-503, 513-514, 525-529.

- Week of Oct. 13: Davis (Ed.), Antebellum American Culture, pp. 370-382;  
McQuaide (Ed.), Selected Writings of Emerson, pp. lvi,  
lxix-lxxvi, 3-103.
- Week of Oct. 20: Henry David Thoreau, Walden.
- Week of Oct. 27: Davis (Ed.), Antebellum American Culture, pp. 231-251.
- Week of Nov. 3: Ibid., pp. 359-366.
- Week of Nov. 10: Ibid. pp. 400-409, 21-23.
- Week of Nov. 17: Ibid., pp. 39-48, 222-230, 444-452;  
McQuaide (Ed.), Selected Writings of Emerson, pp. lxii-lxvii;
- Week of Nov. 24: Davis (Ed.) Antebellum American Culture, 13-18, 77-83.
- Week of Dec. 1: Ibid., pp. 73-77, 88-93; Margaret Fuller, Women in the Nineteenth  
Century (Norton edn.), pp. 1-51, 70-79, 93-105, 109-125,  
134-141, 145-148, 157-179.
- Week of Dec. 8: Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin; Davi (Ed.),  
Antebellum American Culture, pp. 332-339, 418-431, 467-468.