

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

History 400
Mr. Risjord

Representative Americans

Fall, 1986

Required Books

John W. Ward, Andrew Jackson, Symbol for an Age
Nancy Cott, The Bonds of Womanhood
William Styron, The Confessions of Nat Turner
Daniel Boorstin, The Americans: The National Experience

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 books and articles assigned in the units below each student will be asked to read a biography obtained from the library. A summary of the book may be presented in a 15-minute oral report in discussion section or by a written book review. The oral presentations will be coordinated by the teaching assistant so they illustrate some of the major themes developed in the course. Extra credit will be given for oral presentations.

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

Assignments on RESERVE, State Historical Society:

Barbara Welter, "Cult of True Womanhood," American Quarterly (1966), 151-74

Gerda Lerner, "Lady and the Mill Girl" Mid-Continent American Studies (1969), 5-15.

Nancy Cott, The Bonds of Womanhood

Unit III. REFORMERS AND UTOPIANS

John Humphrey Noyes and William Lloyd Garrison

Unit IV. NEGROES, SLAVE AND FREE

Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman

William Styron, Confessions of Nat Turner

Recommended reading on RESERVE in State Historical Society:

John H. Clarke, ed., William Styron's Nat Turner: Ten Black Writers Respond

Unit V. PUBLICISTS AND BUSINESSMEN

P. T. Barnum, Horace Greeley, and 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

Unit VII. CIVIL WAR POLITICS

John C. Fremont and Abraham Lincoln