

HISTORY 901: TOPICS IN ANTEBELLUM HISTORY

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Office Hours: T W TH 11-12
and by appointment

This course is intended to provide you with a general familiarity with the secondary literature on the antebellum period, with a particular emphasis on the social history of that era.

In addition to completing the core assigned readings, participating regularly in general class discussions, and submitting the short papers indicated below, you will be required to read, report on, and submit a 5-page paper on one "recommended secondary work" and a 3-page paper on one "recommended primary document." These papers are due on the day on which you give your report. Oral presentations should raise points of comparison and/or contrast with the assigned reading for that class and should be designed to stimulate and guide our class discussion. They should be about 15 minutes in length.

Introduction: Visions of the Early Republic

February 1: Drew McCoy, The Elusive Republic

Recommended Secondary Works:

- Ruth Bloch, Visionary Republic: Millennial Themes in American Thought, 1756-1800
- Linda Kerber, Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America
- Edmund Morgan, Inventing The People
- Mary Beth Norton, Liberty's Daughters: The Revolutionary Experience of American Women, 1750-1800
- Howard B. Rock, Artisans of the New Republic: The Tradesmen of New York City in the Age of Jefferson
- Robert Wiebe, The Opening of American Society
- Gordon Wood, The Creation of the American Republic

Recommended Primary Documents:

- Alexander Hamilton, Report on the Encouragement of Manufactures
- Thomas Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia
- Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America

Early Industrialization

February 8: Sean Wilentz, Chants Democratic

February 15: Christine Stansell, City of Women

February 22: Thomas Dublin, Women at Work:

5-page review essay due on Wilentz, Stansell, and Dublin

Recommended Secondary Documents:

Stuart Bruchey, The Roots of American Economic Growth, 1607-1861

Alan Dawley, Class and Community: The Industrial Revolution in Lynn, Massachusetts

Robert Ernst, Immigrant Life in New York City, 1825-1865

Leo Marx, The Machine in the Garden: Technology and the Pastoral Ideal in America

Edward Pessen, Most Uncommon Jacksonians: The Radical Leaders of the Early Labor Movement

Jonathan Prude, The Coming of the Industrial Order: Town and Factory Life in Rural Massachusetts, 1810-1860

George Rogers Taylor, The Transportation Revolution, 1815-1860

E. P. Thompson, "Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism," Past and Present 38 (December 1967)

Norman Ware, The Industrial Worker, 1840-1860

Recommended Primary Documents:

James Dawson Burn, Three Years among the Working-Classes in the United States During the War

Benita Eisler, ed., The Powell Offering: Writings by New England Mill Women

John H. Griscom, The Sanitary Condition of the Laboring Population of New York

Westward Movement

March 1: John Faragher, Men and Women on the Overland Trail

Recommended Secondary Works:

Julie Roy Jeffrey, Frontier Women: The Trans-Mississippi West, 1840-1880

Annette Kolodny, The Land Before Her: Fantasy and Experience of the American Frontiers, 1630-1860

Ronald Satz, American Indian Policy in the Jacksonian Era

Henry Nash Smith, Virgin Land: The American West as Symbol and Myth
 Joanna L. Stratton, Pioneer Women: Voices from the Kansas Frontier
 Anthony F.C. Wallace, The Death and Rebirth of the Seneca

Recommended Primary Documents:

Polly W. Kaufman, Women Teachers on the Frontier
 Francis Parkman, The Oregon Trail

Slavery

March 8: Eugene Genovese, Roll, Jordan, Roll

March 15: Deborah Gray White, Ar'n't I a Woman?

March 29: Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, Within the Plantation Household

5-page review essay due on Genovese, White, and Fox-Genovese

Recommended Secondary Works:

John W. Blassingame, The Slave Community

Stanley Elkins, Slavery

Paul D. Escott, Slavery Remembered: A Record of Twentieth Century Slave Narratives

Herbert Gutman, The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom

Jacqueline Jones, Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow

Lawrence Levine, Black Culture and Black Consciousness

Edmund Morgan, American Slavery, American Freedom

Ulrich Phillips, Life and Labor in the Old South

Albert Raboteau, Slave Religion: The "Invisible Institution" in the Antebellum South

Kenneth Stampp, The Peculiar Institution: Slavery in the Antebellum South

Robert Starobin, Industrial Slavery in the Old South

Recommended Primary Documents:

Linda Brent [Harriet Jacobs], Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl

Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave

Free Blacks in the Antebellum Period

April 5: Leon Litwack, North of Slavery

Recommended Secondary Works:

- Ira Berlin, Slaves Without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South
 David W. Cohen and Jack P. Greene, eds., Neither Slave Nor Free: The Freedman of African Descent in the Slave Societies of the New World
 Leonard P. Curry, The Free Black in Urban America, 1800-1850: The Shadow of the Dream
 Sharon Harley, "Northern Black Female Workers: Jacksonian Era" in Harley and Terborg-Penn, eds., The Afro-American Woman
 James Oliver Horton, "Freedom's Yoke: Gender Conventions among Antebellum Free Blacks," Feminist Studies 12/1 (Spring 1986)
 Suzanna Lebsack, The Free Women of Petersburg: Status and Culture in a Southern Town, 1784-1860
 Gary B. Nash, Forging Freedom: The Formation of Philadelphia's Black Community, 1720-1840
 Benjamin Quarles, Black Abolitionists

Recommended Primary Documents:

- Ray Allen Billington, ed., The Journal of Charlotte L. Forten: A Young Black Woman's Reactions to the White World of the Civil War Era
 Harriet E. Wilson, Our Nig; or Sketches from the Life of a Free Black

Antebellum Reform

April 12: Paul Johnson, A Shopkeeper's Millennium

April 19: Mary Ryan, Cradle of the Middle Class

April 26: Nancy Hewitt, Women's Activism and Social Change

May 3: Lawrence Friedman, Gregarious Saints
 5-page paper due on Johnson, Ryan, Hewitt and Friedman

Recommended Secondary Works:

- Nancy F. Cott, The Bonds of Womanhood: "Woman's Sphere" in New England, 1780-1835
 Whitney R. Cross, The Burned-Over District: The Social and Intellectual History of Enthusiastic Religion in Western New York, 1800-1850
 Ann Douglas, The Feminization of American Culture

Ellen Carol DuBois, Feminism and Suffrage: The Emergence of an Independent Women's Movement in America, 1848-1869

Barbara L. Epstein, The Politics of Domesticity: Women, Evangelism, and Temperance in Nineteenth-Century America

Blanche G. Hersh, The Slavery of Sex

David Rothman, The Discovery of the Asylum: Social Order and Disorder in the New Republic

Kathryn Kish Sklar, Catharine Beecher: A Study in American Domesticity

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ruitual," Signs 1/1 (Autumn 1975)

Carroll Smith Rosenberg, Religion and the Rise of the City

Alice Felt Tyler, Freedom's Ferment

Ronald Walters, American Reformers

Recommended Primary Documents:

Charles Loring Brace, The Dangerous Classes of New York

Catharine Beecher, An Essay on Slavery and Abolitionism

Lyman Beecher, A Plea for the West

Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin

Politics in the Antebellum Period

May 10: Eric Foner, Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men

Recommended Secondary Works:

Avery Craven, The Repressible Conflict

Martin Duberman, ed., The Antislavery Vabguard

George Frederickson, The Inner Civil War

William W. Freehling, Prelude to Civil War: The Nullification Controversy in South Carolina

Richard P. McCormick, the Second American Party System: Party formation in the Jacksonian Era

David Montgomery, Beyond Equality: Labor and the Radical Republicans, 1862-1872