

THE EARLY REPUBLIC

HIUS 107
Mr. Meranze
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Office Hours Tu-Th, 12-1:15
AND BY APPT.
H&SS 4084 (534-1996)

This course will examine the transformation of American culture, politics and society between the American Revolution and the Jacksonian period. Topics to be considered include the consolidation of the new national government, the development of political parties, the turn towards westward expansion, the emergence of domesticity, the expansion of capitalist relations, the debate over slavery, the early labor movements, struggles over democracy and the origins and motivations of middle-class reform. We will be especially concerned to examine and understand the paradoxes and contradictions of early national democracy.

REQUIREMENTS:
MID-TERM 25%
PAPER 25%
FINAL 50%

ALL REQUIREMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED TO RECEIVE COURSE CREDIT

BOOKS TO BE PURCHASED (AVAILABLE AT GROUNDWORK BOOKS)

Christine Heyrman, Southern Cross
Theda Purdue and Michael Green, The Cherokee Removal
Sheila Skemp, Judith Sargent Murray
Alan Taylor, William Cooper's Town
David Walker, David Walker's Appeal
Harry Watson, Andrew Jackson vs. Henry Clay

Please bring the week's reading assignment to class for discussion.

WEEK 1

3/29 INTRODUCTION

3/31 CONTEXTS OF CONFLICT (I)

READING: Skemp, Judith Sargent Murray, Part I.
Taylor, William Cooper's Town, 3-114

WEEK 2

4/5 CLASS, SLAVERY, AND DEMOCRACY

4/7 SLAVERY AND THE FOUNDING

READING: Skemp, Judith Sargent Murray, Part II.

WEEK 3

4/12 BODIES POLITIC

4/14 POLITICAL ECONOMY AND THE FIRST PARTY SYSTEM

READING: Taylor, William Cooper's Town, 141-291

WEEK 4

4/19 LABOR AND THE REPUBLIC

4/21 AWAKENINGS AND THE ORIGINS OF THE MIDDLE CLASS

READING: Taylor, William Cooper's Town, 295-427

WEEK 5

4/26 TRANSFORMATION OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

4/28 ORIGINS OF THE MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY

READING: Heyrman, Southern Cross, 3-116

WEEK 6

5/3 ***MIDTERM***

5/5 CAGES OF GENDER

READING: Heyrman, Southern Cross, 117-260

WEEK 7

5/10 WESTWARD EXPANSION AND THE INDIAN QUESTION

5/12 CORRECTIONS, DISCIPLINE, AND THE MEANINGS OF LIBERALISM

READING: Perdue and Green, The Cherokee Removal, entire.

WEEK 8

PAPER DUE IN CLASS TUESDAY May 17

5/17 THE ENTRENCHMENT OF SLAVERY

5/19 EVOLUTION OF SOUTHERN SOCIETY

READING: Walker, David Walker's Appeal, entire (including introduction).

WEEK 9

5/24 END OF THE OLD ORDER

5/26 JACKSON

READING: Watson, Andrew Jackson vs. Henry Clay, part I

WEEK 10

5/31 PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUALISM

6/2 REVIEW

READING: Watson, Andre Jackson vs. Henry Clay, 121-249