

History 2123 [233]  
Fall 2018  
MW 11:40 am-1:05 pm  
Sills 205

McMahon  
Hubbard Hall 11  
ext. 3241  
[smcmahon@bowdoin.edu](mailto:smcmahon@bowdoin.edu)

### American Society in the New Nation, 1763-1840

This course offers a chronological survey of the social history of the United States from the Revolution to the Age of Jackson. A number of themes organize the first part of the course: the complex social and economic structure of mid-eighteenth century America; various and often divergent cultural, political, and ideological roots of the movement for American independence; the struggle to determine the scope of the Constitution and the political shape of the new republic; and the emergence of and contest over the new social and cultural order and the nature of American “identity” in the early years of nationhood. The second part of the course examines the diverging histories of regions (North, South, and trans-Appalachian West) and peoples (African Americans, Anglo- and Euro-Americans, and Native Americans) in the first half of the nineteenth century. Topics include the evolution and impact of urbanization, industrialization, and the development of new forms of social and political organization in the North; increasing religious diversity and the Second Great Awakening; the westward expansion of the nation and the continuing contest over land; the southern plantation economy and slave communities; and the growth of the reform impulse in the Jacksonian era as various groups of Americans attempted to grapple with tensions and strains in the new nation.

No prior coursework in revolutionary and early national American history is required. Students will be introduced to the range of historical literature—both monographs (books) and articles—in the field and to the reading and analysis of primary source materials.

*Course requirements:* The course consists of two class meetings each week. The reading assignments for each class should be completed by that class meeting. (The “further readings” listed in the *Reading Guide* are not required.) You are expected to attend class and to come to all class meetings and discussion sections prepared to discuss and analyze the readings [20% of final grade]. The *History 2123 Reading Guide* on Blackboard provides questions to help focus your reading for the class discussions as well as electronic links to all of the assigned articles, either through e-reserve or an online Library database. If you miss a discussion section meeting (noted in the syllabus), you are expected to write a thoughtful evaluation (2-3 pages) of the assigned book. You are encouraged to purchase the assigned books from the bookstore; a copy of each of the assigned books is on reserve in the library.

All three essay assignments are integral parts of the course. Two critical analyses of primary documents (5 pages each) will be due during the semester [together, 40% of final grade]. A final take-home essay (10-12 pages) is due by the scheduled final-exam date for the course [in most cases, 40% of final grade]. For guidelines and exceptions, see the *Extension, Deadline, and Grading Policy* on the Blackboard course home page.

All students are expected to read, understand, and abide by The Bowdoin College Academic Honor Code and by the rules of citation (When to Cite and How to Cite) described on the Bowdoin College Academic Honesty and Plagiarism website at <http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/academic-honesty/index.shtml>.

BOOKS: Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* (1771-1789)  
Robert Gross, *The Minutemen and Their World* (1976; second edition 2001)  
Joseph Ellis, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* (2000)  
Joel W. Martin, *Sacred Revolt: The Muskogees' Struggle for a New World* (1991)  
Charles Joyner, *Down by the Riverside: A South Carolina Slave Community* (2009 ed.)  
Joyce Appleby, *Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans* (2000)

The History 2123 Reading Guide and other online resources can be found on Blackboard at <http://www.bowdoin.edu/faculty/s/smcmahon/courses/hist233/index.shtml>.

WEEK 1

8/29 Introduction

WEEK 2

*Era of the American Revolution*

9/3 REGIONAL VARIATIONS: Economic and Social Structure of Eighteenth-Century American Society

readings: Gloria L. Main, "The Standard of Living in Southern New England, 1640-1773,"

*William and Mary Quarterly* 3d Ser., 45.1 (1988), 124-134. (JSTOR)

Billy G. Smith, "Inequality in Late Colonial Philadelphia: A Note on its Nature and Growth," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d Ser., 41.4 (1984), 629-645. (JSTOR)

Rhys Isaac, "Evangelical Revolt: The Nature of the Baptists' Challenge to the Traditional Order in Virginia, 1765 to 1775," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd. Ser., 31.3. (1974), 345-368. (JSTOR)

9/5 *Discussion*: PROVINCIAL MENTALITY in the Eighteenth Century

reading: Benjamin Franklin, *The Autobiography* (1771-1789). *Note*: if you are reading the Dover Thrift Edition, read Franklin's Outline last.

*Guidelines for Writing a Critical Analysis of a Primary Document* (LINK)

WEEK 3

9/10 UNREST: Imperial Decisions and Colonial Reactions

reading: Pauline Maier, "Popular Uprisings and Civil Authority in Eighteenth-Century America,"

*William and Mary Quarterly* 3d. Ser., 27.1 (1970), 3-35. (JSTOR)

*History 233: Collections of Primary Documents* (LINK)

*Extension Policy* (LINK)

9/12 "Origins" of the American Revolution

reading: Gordon S. Wood, "Conspiracy and the Paranoid Style: Causality and Deceit in the Eighteenth Century," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d Ser., 39.3 (1982), 401-441. (JSTOR)

Week 4

9/17 *Discussion*: Rebellion - Revolution

reading: Robert Gross, *The Minutemen and Their World* (1976)

The New Republic

9/19 Gun Culture, Historical Methods, and Academic Honesty/Dishonesty

reading: James Lindgren, "Fall From Grace: Arming America and the Bellesiles Scandal," *Yale Law Journal* 111.8 (June 2002). (JSTOR)

***First Critical Analysis due*** (primary document written between 1760 and 1800)

WEEK 5

9/24 FRAMING THE NEW REPUBLIC: Federalists, Anti-Federalists, and the Constitution

readings: Isaac Kramnick, "The Great National Discussion: The Discourse of Politics in 1787,"

*William and Mary Quarterly* 3d Ser., 45.1 (1988), 3-32. (JSTOR)

Alfred F. Young, "The Framers of the Constitution and the 'Genius' of the People," *Radical History Review* 45 (1988), 8-18; reprinted in Sean Wilentz, ed., *Major Problems in the Early Republic, 1787-1848* (1992), 53-60. (e-reserve)

9/26 JEFFERSONIAN AMERICA: Toward a "Republican" Vision

reading: John R. Howe, "Republican Thought and the Political Violence of the 1790s," *American Quarterly* 19.2, Part I (1967), 147-165. (JSTOR)

WEEK 6

10/1 *Discussion*: The Revolutionary Generation

reading: Joseph Ellis, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* (2000)

10/3 AMERICAN SOCIETY IN TRANSITION: Changing Systems of Hierarchy and Association

readings: Daniel Vickers, "Competency and Competition: Economic Culture in Early America," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d. Ser., 47.1 (1990), 3-29. (JSTOR)

Kathleen Smith Kutolowski, "Freemasonry and Community in the Early Republic: The Case for Antimasonic Anxieties," *American Quarterly* 34.5 (1982), 543-561. (JSTOR)

WEEK 7

10/8 Fall Break

10/10 TBD

WEEK 8

*The Early Nineteenth Century: Urbanization, Industrialization, Modernization*

10/15 THE WAR OF 1812 AND THE ERA OF GOOD FEELINGS: American Identity, Economic Nationalism, Regional Economic Specialization

readings: Clinton Rossiter, "Nationalism and American Identity in the Early Republic," from Rossiter, *The American Quest: An Emerging Nation in Search of Identity* (1971); reprinted in Sean Wilentz, ed., *Major Problems in the Early Republic, 1787-1848* (1992), 14-22. (e-reserve):

Roger H. Brown, "The War of 1812 and the Struggle for Political Permanency," from Brown, *The Republic in Peril: 1812* (1964)

Steven Watts, "The Liberal Impulse to War," from Watts, *The Republic Reborn: War and the Making of Liberal America, 1790-1820* (1987)

10/17 THE NORTHEAST: Changing Spatial Relationships and the Rise of the City

readings: Simeon J. Crowther, "Urban Growth in the Mid-Atlantic States, 1785-1850," *Journal of Economic History* 36.3 (1976), 624-644. (JSTOR)

Gary B. Nash, "The Social Evolution of Preindustrial American Cities, 1700-1820: Reflections and New Directions," *Journal of Urban History* 13 (1987), 115-145. (e-reserve)

WEEK 9

10/22 The Rise Of The Urban, White, Native-Born "Middle Class" Family

readings: Jan Lewis, "The Republican Wife: Virtue and Seduction in the Early Republic," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3d Ser., 44.4 (1987), 689-721. (JSTOR)

Linda Kerber, "The Paradox of Women's Citizenship in the Early Republic: The Case of *Martin vs. Massachusetts*, 1805," *American Historical Review* 97.2 (1992), 349-378. (JSTOR)

10/24 REPUBLICAN RELIGION: The Evangelical Age and the Second Great Awakening

readings: Mary Kupiec Cayton, "Who Were the Evangelicals?: Conservative and Liberal Identity in the Unitarian Controversy in Boston, 1804-1833," *Journal of Social History* 31.1 (1997), 85-107. (JSTOR)

John H. Wigger, "Taking Heaven by Storm: Enthusiasm and Early American Methodism, 1770-1820," *Journal of the Early Republic* 14 (1994), 167-194. (e-reserve)

WEEK 10

10/29 *Discussion*: Native American Religion and Culture in the New Republic

reading: Joel Martin, *Sacred Revolt* (1991)

- 10/31 Industrialization and the Industrial Community  
readings: Thomas Dublin, "Women Workers and the Study of Social Mobility," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 9:4 (1979), 647-665. (JSTOR)  
Mary H. Blewett, "Work, Gender and the Artisan Tradition in New England Shoemaking, 1780-1860," *Journal of Social History* 17.2 (1983), 221-248. (JSTOR)

Week 11

- 11/5 The Opening of the Trans-Appalachian West  
reading: Frederick Jackson Turner, Presidential Address: "The Significance of the Frontier in American History," American Historical Association, 1893, reprinted as Chapter 1 in *The Frontier in American History* (1921), 1-18). American Studies at the University of Virginia Hypertext. (LINK)

11/7 TBD

***Second Critical Analysis due*** (primary document written between 1801 and 1840)

WEEK 12

*Toward the Mid-Nineteenth Century*

- 11/12 Southern Economy and the Plantation System  
reading: Eugene D. Genovese and Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, "The Slave Economies in Political Perspective," *Journal of American History* 66.1 (1979), 7-23. (JSTOR)
- 11/14 *Discussion*: Slave Communities and African-American Culture  
reading: Charles Joyner, *Down by the Riverside* (1984)

WEEK 13

- 11/19 THE REFORM IMPULSE: Old Ideals and New Realities  
reading: Paul E. Johnson, "Class, Liquor, and Reform in Rochester," from Johnson, *A Shopkeeper's Millennium* (1978); reprinted in Sean Wilentz, *Major Problems in the Early Republic, 1787-1848* (1992), 448-454. (e-reserve)

11/21 Thanksgiving Break

WEEK 14

- 11/26 The Perfectionist Impulse in Antebellum Reform: Utopian Alternatives  
reading: Carl J. Guarneri, "Reconstructing the Antebellum Communitarian Movement: Oneida and Fourierism," *Journal of the Early Republic* 16 (1996), 463-488. (e-reserve)
- 11/28 *Discussion*: Inheriting the Revolution  
reading: Joyce Appleby, *Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans* (2000)

WEEK 15

- 12/3 THE JACKSONIAN PERSUASION: Abolitionism, Feminism and Jacksonian Politics as Responses to American Society  
readings: Vincent Gordon Harding, "Wrestling toward the Dawn: The Afro-American Freedom Movement and the Changing Constitution" *Journal of American History* 74.3 (1987), 718-739. (JSTOR)  
Ellen Carol Dubois, "Outgrowing the Compact of the Fathers: Equal Rights, Woman Suffrage, and the United States Constitution, 1820-1878," *Journal of American History* 74.3 (1987), 836-863. (JSTOR)
- 12/5 JACKSONIAN "DEMOCRACY": Toward Mid-Nineteenth-Century America  
***Final Take-home Essay***: due Saturday, Dec. 15 noon