

History 618: **THE AGE OF JACKSON, 1815-1854**
Fall 2014

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This course surveys a period of intense change in American social, political, religious, and economic life. We will focus both on major events and important topics to try to understand the forces which shaped this period. Course objectives are to foster a greater understanding of this period, to survey past and present interpretations of it, and to further students' analytical and writing abilities. Students should keep up with the reading assignments and attend regularly, as class participation is important.

In addition to the take home midterm and final, students will be expected to give an in-class report on a book linked to the readings (see below for suggestions). This is a way to extend the class's collective knowledge of historiography. An analytical book review of 6 to 9 double-spaced, typed pages that compares the week's assigned reading with the chosen book will be due one week after the oral report. Ph.D. students will write a longer review that contrasts three books with the assigned reading. A penalty of 1/2 letter grade per day will be assessed on late papers unless arrangements have been made with the instructor.

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703 993 2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Students who have any questions or difficulties with the class materials should drop by during office hours or schedule an appointment.

Grades will be based on the following criteria:

midterm exam (take home):	25%
paper	30%
final exam:	35%
class participation (inc. oral report)	10%

Required readings:

(various articles available on JSTOR and paperback books available from campus bookstore)

Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*.

Robert Pierce Forbes, *The Missouri Compromise and Its Aftermath: Slavery and the Meaning of America*.

Stephen Warren, *The Shawnees and Their Neighbors, 1795-1870*

Jessica Lepler, *The Many Panics of 1837: People, Politics, and the Creation of a Transatlantic Financial Crisis*

Jonathan Earle, *Jacksonian Antislavery and the Politics of Free Soil, 1824-1854*.

Seth Rockman, *Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore*

Sylvia Jenkins Cook, *Working Women, Literary Ladies: The Industrial Revolution and Female Aspiration*

Karen V. Hansen, *A Very Social Time: Crafting Community in Antebellum New England*

Carol Faulkner. *Lucretia Mott's Heresy: Abolition and Women's Rights in Nineteenth-Century America*

Carl J. Guarneri, *The Utopian Alternative: Fourierism in Nineteenth-Century America*

Cheryl LaRoche, *Free Black Communities and the Underground Railroad*

Aug. 26 Introduction to Course. The End of the First Party System

Sept. 2 The Age of Jackson?: Major Overviews. Read Howe, chs. 1-5, and Daniel Feller, "The Market Revolution Ate My Homework," *Reviews in American History*, 25 (Sept.1997), 408-15.
LAST DAY TO ADD CLASS

9 The Missouri Compromise. Read Forbes.
Possibilities for Review: Drew McCoy, *Last of the Fathers*; Matthew Mason, *Slavery and Politics in the Early American Republic*; William W. Freehling, *Prelude to Civil War*

16 Jacksonian Politics. Howe, chs. 6-11, and Kirsten Wood, "One Woman so Dangerous to Public Morals': Gender and Power in the Eaton Affair," in *Journal of the Early Republic*, 17 (Summer, 1997), 237-275.
Possibilities for review: John Marszalek, *The Petticoat Affair*; Andrew Burstyn, *Passions of Andrew Jackson*; Richard Ellis, *The Union at Risk*; Elizabeth Varon, *Disunion!: The Coming of the American Civil War, 1789-1859*

Sept. 23 Jacksonian Politics: Dealing with Native Americans. Read Warren.
Possibilities for review: William G. McLoughlin, *Cherokee Renaissance*; Robbie Ethridge, *Creek Country*; Michael Green, *Politics of Indian Removal*

Sept. 26 **LAST DAY TO DROP CLASS**

30 Politics and Antislavery. Read Earle, and Howe, chs. 12, 13
Possibilities for Review: Leonard L. Richards, *Life and Times of
Congressman John Quincy Adams* Richard Sewell, *Ballots
for Freedom*; Edward Widmer, *Young America*

Oct. 7 The Depression of 1837. Read Lepler, and Howe, ch. 14.
Possibilities for Review: Robert V. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and
the Bank War*; Alasdair Roberts, *America's First Great
Depression*; Stephen Mihm, *A Nation of Counterfeiters*
RECEIVE TAKE HOME MIDTERM

Oct. 14 **FALL HOLIDAY: NO CLASS. TURN IN MIDTERM EXAM**

Oct. 21 Industrialization and Jacksonian Workers. Read Rockman;
Howe, ch. 15.
Possibilities for Review: Edward Pessen, *Most Uncommon
Jacksonians*; Bruce Laurie, *The Working People of
Philadelphia*; Peter Way, *Common Labor*; Carol Sheriff, *The
Artificial River: The Erie Canal and the Paradox of
Progress*

28 Texas and the Mexican American War. Read Howe, chs. 17-20
and finale
Possibilities for Review: Timothy J. Henderson, *A Glorious Defeat:
Mexico and Its War with the United States*; Richard
Winders, *Mr. Polk's Army*; Amy Greenberg, *A Wicked War*

Nov. 4 Women, Work, and Education. Read Cook, chs. 1-6, 8; and
Howe, ch. 16.
Possibilities for Review: Teresa Murphy, *Ten Hours Labor*; Patricia
Cline Cohen, *The Murder of Helen Jewett*; Thomas Dublin,
Transforming Women's Work

11 Women and Community. Read Hansen.
Possibilities for Review. Hal Barron, *Those Who Stayed Behind*;
Catherine Kelly, *In the New England Fashion*; John Mack
Faragher, *Sugar Creek: Life on the Illinois Prairie*

- Nov. 18 Antislavery, Reform, and Women. Read Faulkner, chs. 1-10 and epilogue.
Possibilities for Review: Judith Wellman, *The Road to Seneca Falls*; Lori Ginzberg, *Untidy Origins*; Elizabeth Varon, *We Mean to be Counted*; Julie Roy Jeffrey, *The Great Silent Army of Abolitionism*; Susan Zaeske, *Signatures of Citizenship*
- Nov. 25 African Americans Communities caught between Slavery and Freedom. Read LaRoche.
Possibilities for Review: Stephen A. Vincent, *Southern Seed, Northern Soil: African-American Farm Communities*; Thomas Buchanan, *Black Life on the Mississippi*; Leslie M. Alexander, *African or American?*
- Dec 2 Reform and Communities. Read Guarneri, chs. Intro-14.
Possibilities for Review. Anne C. Rose, *Transcendentalism as a Social Movement*; Sterling Delano, *Brook Farm*; Lawrence Foster, *Religion and Sexuality: The Shakers, Mormons, and the Oneida Community*
RECEIVE TAKE HOME FINAL.
- 16 TURN IN TAKE HOME FINAL