

History 618: **THE AGE OF JACKSON, 1815-1854**
Fall 2012

Jane Turner Censer
(o) 703 993-2146
(h) 703 323-8575
FAX 703 993 1251

341B Robinson Hall
Office hours: Mon. 1:00-3:00,
Wed., 4:30-5:30, Thurs 6:15-7:15
and by appointment
e-mail: jcense1@gmu.edu

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 must keep up with the reading assignments and attend regularly, as class participation is important.

In addition to the 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 historiographical knowledge. 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. 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 (all in paperback and available in 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*.

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

Alasdair Roberts, **America's First Great Depression: Economic Crisis and Political Disorder after the Panic of 1837.**

Stephen Mihm, **A Nation of Counterfeiters: Capitalists, Con Men and the Making of the United States.**

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

Brian C. Mitchell, **The Paddy Camps: The Irish of Lowell, 1821-61.**

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

Mary Kelley, **Learning to Stand and Speak: Women, Education, and Public Life in America's Republic.**

Beth A. Salerno, **Sister Societies: Women's Antislavery Organizations in Antebellum America.**

Leslie M. Alexander, **African or American?: Black Identity and Political Activism in New York City, 1784-1861.**

Aug. 30 Introduction to Course. The End of the First Party System

Sept. 4 **LAST DAY TO ADD CLASS**

6 The Age of Jackson: Major Overviews. Read Howe, chs. 1-6

13 The Missouri Compromise. Read Forbes

Possibilities for Review: Lacy Ford, *Origins of Southern Radicalism*;
 Glover Moore, *The Missouri Controversy*; Drew McCoy, *Last of the Fathers*

20 Jacksonian Politics: Dealing with the South and Native Americans.
 Read Howe, chs. 7-11; Jane and William H. Pease, "The Economics
 and Politics of Charleston's Nullification Crisis," in *Journal of
 Southern History* (1981): 335-62, and H. David Williams,
 "Gambling away the Inheritance: The Cherokee Nation & Georgia's
 Gold and Land Lotteries of 1832-33," in *Georgia Historical
 Quarterly* (1989): 519-39, both available in JSTOR).

Possibilities for review: William G. McLoughlin, *Cherokee Renaissance*;
 Robbie Ethridge, *Creek Country*; Richard Ellis, *Union at Risk*;
 William Freehling, *Prelude to Civil War*

27 Politics and Antislavery. Read Earle; and Howe, chs. 12, 13 & 15.
 Possibilities for Review: Richard Sewell, *Ballots for Freedom*; William
 Miller, *Arguing about Slavery*

28 **LAST DAY TO DROP CLASS**

Oct. 4 The Depression of 1837. Read Roberts; Howe, chs. 14 and 17.
 Possibilities for Review: Peter Temin, *Jacksonian Economy*; Robert
 V. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Bank War*; Edward Widmer,
 Young America

- Oct. 11 Value, Deceit, and Identity in the Market Society. Read Mihm
Possibilities for Review: David Henkin, *City Reading*; Karen Haltunnen, *Confidence Men and Painted Women*; Patricia Cline Cohen, *The Murder of Helen Jewett*
- 18 Industrialization and Jacksonian Workers. Read Rockman; Howe, chs. 14-15.
Possibilities for Review: Edward Pessen, *Most Uncommon Jacksonians*; Bruce Laurie, *The Working People of Philadelphia*; Jonathan Prude, *Coming of Industrial Order*; Peter Way, *Common Labor*
- 25 Immigrants and Community. Read Mitchell; Howe, chs. 18-20, and finale. **RECEIVE TAKE HOME MIDTERM**
Possibilities for Review: Kerby A. Miller, *Emigrants and Exiles*; J. Matthew Gallman, *Receiving Erin's Children*, Hasia Diner, *Erin's Daughters in America*
- Nov. 1 **NO CLASS. RETURN MIDTERM EXAM.**
- 8 Women and Community. Read Hansen.
Possibilities for Review. Hal Barron, *Those Who Stayed Behind*; Catherine Kelly, *In the New England Fashion*; Mary and Ronald Zboray, *Literary Dollars and Social Sense*
- 15 Women, Education, and Intellectual Life. Read Kelley; Howe, ch. 16; and Charles Capper, "Margaret Fuller as Cultural Reformer," *American Quarterly* (1987): 509-28 (available on JSTOR)
Possibilities for Review. Anne C. Rose, *Transcendentalism as a Social Movement*; Mary Cayton, *Emerson's Emergence*; Sterling Delano, *Brook Farm*
- 22 **THANKSGIVING. NO CLASS**
- 29 Antislavery, Reform, and Women. Read Salerno
Possibilities for Review: Judith Wellman, *The Road to Seneca Falls*; Elizabeth Varon, *We Mean to be Counted*; Julie Roy Jeffrey, *The Great Silent Army of Abolitionism*; Susan Zaeske, *Signatures of Citizenship*
- Dec 6 African Americans between Slavery and Freedom. Read Alexander. **RECEIVE FINAL.**
Possibilities for Review: James and Lois Horton, *Black Bostonians*; Stephen A. Vincent, *Southern Seed, Northern Soil: African-American Farm Communities*; Thomas Buchanan, *Black Life on the Mississippi*
- 13 **RETURN FINAL EXAM**