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)
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.


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


Possibilities for review: William G. McLoughlin, Cherokee Renascence; 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
| Nov. 1  | NO CLASS. RETURN MIDTERM EXAM. |
| 22     | THANKSGIVING. NO CLASS |
| 29     | Anti slavery, 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*
| 13     | RETURN FINAL EXAM