# Andrew Shankman History 315

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**Office Hours: T/Th 12:45-2:45**

## The Early American Republic, 1789-1848

This course provides a careful and focused examination of the United States in its early national period, the years from the end of the American Revolution to the eve of the Civil War. Through a combination of secondary literature and documents of the period, the course will explore the origins and development of republican and democratic forms of governance and citizenship in an increasingly capitalist culture and society, and the causes and implications of continued and often increasing inequalities of race and gender in a society that proclaimed all men equal.

**There will be three out of class writing assignments. The first will account for 20% of the final grade and the second and third will each account for 30%. The remaining 20% will come from participation in weekly class discussion. Each out of class paper will answer a question provided by me. You will have ample material with which to answer these questions and consulting outside sources of any kind is forbidden unless you have cleared that source with me beforehand. Regarding participation: Participation depends on regular attendance and each student is expected to attend each class meeting. There is no such thing as an excused absence. You are responsible for the material covered each week and for participating in discussion to the point that it becomes clear that you have earned a high grade for the category of participation in class discussion.**

**The following remarks provide a guideline for how to interpret letter grades in this course: The goal in this course is to combine description with analysis. In your papers you will need to explain the basics: what happened, to whom, where, and when. But you will also need to go below the surface of “plot summary” and attempt to explain why people thought and acted as they did. When you explain that something happened you beg the question of why it occurred. Answering this latter question is the ultimate goal of your papers. Therefore:**

**A papers will skillfully combine description with analysis. They will be free of factual and grammatical errors, will provide a clean, skillfully phrased statement of the problem or issue the paper addresses, and will include clear introductions and conclusions. A papers will not simpply describe events or narrate developments, they will also assess why these events and developments occurred, what caused them, and what changes arose because of them. Finally, A papers will show command of all relevant material from class reading, discussion, and lecture.**

**B papers are essentially weaker versions of A papers. While B papers should also be free of factual and grammatical errors and provide a clear narrative of events, they are weaker with analysis and do not dig deeply enough to explain causes and motiviations.**

**C papers will generally offer weak attempts at analysis and demonstrate some difficulty with providing a coherent narrative of events.**

**D papers provide no analysis and only a barely competent narrative of events.**

### **Books to Purchase**

1. Drew R. McCoy, *The Elusive Republic: Political Economy in Jeffersonian America*
2. James Roger Sharp, *American Politics in the Early Republic: The New Nation in Crisis*
3. Harry L. Watson, *Liberty and Power: The Politics of Jacksonian America*
4. Solomon Northup, *Twelve Years A Slave*
5. Anthony F. C. Wallace, *The Long and Bitter Trail: Andrew Jackson and the Indians*

Note Well—Much of the Reading is Available only on online course reserve.

## Course Syllabus

# Week I: No Reading

Tuesday January 19: Lecture I: The Early Modern Political World: Theory and Practice

Thursday January 21 Lecture II: The English Speaking World of the Eighteenth Century

# Week II Reading:

# McCoy, *The Elusive Republic*, 5-135

Tuesday January 26: Lecture III: Revolutionary Legacies: The Critical Period of the 1780s

Thursday January 28: Discussion of Reading

# Week III Reading: 1) McCoy, *The Elusive Republic* 136-165 2) Sharp, *American Politics in the Early Republic* 1-68, ON RESERVE 3) Hacket Fischer, *The Revolution of American Conservatism* 4) Shankman, “A New Thing on Earth” 323-335 only (stop at footnote 23)

Tuesday February 2: Lecture IV: The 1790s I: The Natural Aristocrats Divide, 1789-1792

Thursday February 4: Discussion of Reading

# Week IV Reading: 1) Drew McCoy, *The Elusive Republic* 166-184, 2) James Roger Sharp, *American Politics in the Early Republic* 69-162, ON RESERVE 3) Thomas Slaughter, *The Whiskey Rebellion* 158-189 4) Terry Bouton, “A Road Closed” 5) Matthew Schoenbachler, “Republicanism in the Age of the Democratic Revolution”

Tuesday February 9: Lecture V: The 1790s II: The Polarizing of American Society, 1793-1798

Thursday February 11: Discussion of Reading

**Week V** **Reading:** **Reading** **1)** Sharp, *American Politics in the Early Republic* 163-288 **ON RESERVE** **2)** Richard Kohn, *Eagle and Sword* **3)** Douglas Egerton, “Gabriel’s Conspiracy and the Election of 1800”

Tuesday February 16: Lecture VI: 1790s III: The Endgame of American Conservatism and the Revolution of 1800

Thursday February 18: Discussion of Reading, Discussion for Paper One

**Week VI Reading**: **1)** McCoy, *The Elusive Republic* 185-235 **ON RESERVE:** **2)** Bradford Perkins, *Prologue to War* 32-66 **3)** Andrew Shankman, “Malcontents and Tertium Quids” **4)** Andrew Shankman, “A New Thing on Earth 335-352 **5)** Jeff Pasley, “1800 As a Revolution in Political Culture” **6)** Thomas Jefferson “Notes on the State of Virginia” pp. 157-158 **7)** Thomas Jefferson to William Johnson (1823)

Tuesday February 23: Lecture VII: The Jeffersonians in Power

Thursday February 25: Discussion of Reading **FIRST PAPER DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**

# Week VII Reading: ON RESERVE 1) David Brion Davis, *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution* 2) James Oakes “Whom Have I Oppressed” 3) John Craig Hammond, *Slavery Freedom and Expansion* 4) James Merrell, “Declarations of Independence” 5) Bernard Sheehan, “Jeffersonian Philanthropy and the American Indian” 6) Jeanne Boydston “Making Gender in the Early Republic” 7) Andrew Shankman, “How Should We Think about the Election of 1800” 8) Thomas Jefferson, “Notes on the State of Virginia” pp. 56-64, 155-156, 158-159, 132-139

Tuesday March 1: Lecture VIII: Jeffersonian Dilemmas: Race, Slavery, Gender, and Equality

Thursday March 3: Discussion or Reading

# Week VIII Reading: 1) Drew McCoy, *The Elusive Republic* pp. 236-259 ON RESERVE

# 2) Alan Taylor, “The War of 1812 and the Struggle for A Continent” 3) Charles Sellers, *The Market Revolution* pp. 70-136 4) Drew McCoy, “An Unfinished Revolution” 5) Duncan Macleod “The Triple Crisis” 6) Andrew Shankman, “Capitalism, Slavery, and the New Epoch: Mathew Carey’s 1819” 7) Thomas Jefferson to Benjamin Austin (1816) 8) Thomas Jefferson to John Holmes (1820)

Tuesday March 8: Lecture IX: The Years of War and Transition, 1812-1820

Thursday March 10: Discussion or Reading

# Week IX Spring Break

# Week X Reading: 1) Harry Watson, *Liberty and Power* pp. 3-72 ON RESERVE: 2) Christopher Clark, “The Consequences of the Market Revolution in the American North” 3) Charles Sellers, *The Market Revolution* pp. 34-69 4) Bruce Laurie, *Artisans into Workers* pp. 15-465)Sean Wilentz, “Metropolitan Industrialization” 6) British Cabinet-Maker “On the Lives of Big-City Craftsmen” (1845)

Tuesday March 22: Lecture X: The Transformation of the North I: Law, Society, and Economy

Thursday March 24: Discussion of Reading

# Week X Reading: ON RESERVE: 1) Bruce Laurie, *Artisans into Workers* pp. 47-112 2)Paul Johnson, “Class, Liquor, and Reform in Rochester” 3) Mary P. Ryan, “Middle-Class Women and Moral Reform” 4) Ronald Walters, *American Reformers* pp. 21-37, 101-121 5) Ronald Walters, *The Antislavery Appeal* pp. 37-53, 91-110 6) Walter Huggins, *The Reform Impulse* pp.30-33, 121-126, 170-174 7) “The Seneca Falls Convention on the Equality of Men and Women (1848)

Tuesday March 29: Lecture XI: The Transformation of the North II: Society and Culture

Thursday March 31: Discussion of Reading, Discussion of Issues for Second Paper

# Week XI Reading: ON RESERVE 1) Solomon Northup, *Twelve Years A Slave* pp. 3-252 ON RESERVE: 2) Peter Kolchin, *American Slavery* pp. 93-199

Tuesday April 5: Lecture XII: The South and Slavery

Thursday April 7: Discussion of Reading

# Week XII Reading: Harry Watson, *Liberty and Power* pp. 73-253

Tuesday April 12: Lecture XIII: The Rise of Jacksonian Era Politics, 1820-1840,

Thursday April 14: Discussion of Reading, **SECOND PAPER DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**

# Week XIII Reading: 1) Anthony F.C. Wallace, *The Long and Bitter Trail* ON RESERVE

# 2) Drew Gilpin Faust, “The Pro-Slavery Argument” 3) Barbara Welter, “The Cult of True Womanhood: 1820-1860”

Tuesday April 19: Lecture XIV: Citizenship in the Jacksonian Era: Race, Gender and Removal

Thursday April 21: Discussion of Reading

# Week XIV Reading: ON RESEVE 1) James McPherson, *Ordeal by Fire* pp. 57-70 2) Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought* 3) Matthew Karp, “The World the Slaveholders Craved” 4) Michael Morrison, *Slavery and the American West* pp.66-95 5) Party Platforms (1848)

Tuesday April 26: Lecture XV: The West, Manifest Destiny, and the End of Jacksonian Politics

Thursday April 28: Discussion of Reading, Discussion of Final Paper

**Final Paper: Due Scheduled Time of Class Final**