

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

HIS 572-01
CID#: 3530
Early National America
Credit Hours: 3.0
Spring Semester 2008

Instructor: Dr. Tom Cox

Classroom and Class Time: AB4 303, 6:00-8:50 p.m., M, 6:00-8:50 p.m.

Office and Office Hours: AB4 473, 2:30-4:00 p.m., M/W or by appointment

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Course Description: This course examines American history from the 1780s to the Civil War. Although America today is the last remaining superpower, for much of its early history it was a small, relatively weak nation struggling to expand, grow, and develop its own identity. This era witnessed the creation of America's system of state and federal governments (embodied in the U.S. Constitution), several wars including the U.S.-Mexican War and Civil War, the rise of many of our national heroes (and villains), and saw the creation of a distinctly "American" culture with its own beliefs and values. Students will study major topics for the course including the creation of the U.S. Constitution, the political struggles of the 1790s, gender roles in the Early Republic, settler-Indian conflicts, the U-S.-Mexican War, slavery and the Old South, and the Civil War.

Learning Objectives: Throughout this semester, our course goals are to:

- Increase your knowledge of early American history from the 1780s to the Civil War.
- Continue to sharpen your critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills.
- Investigate the theoretical concepts and intellectual techniques used by professional historians

Readings: The readings for this course include nine mandatory books. One of these books will be a choice between James Oakes's *The Ruling Race* and Deborah Gray White's *Ar'n't I a Woman?* Another will be a book of the student's choice from the list of books at the end of this syllabus. The professor will also post suggested short, weekly articles on Blackboard designed to improve your understand of the course readings which can in turn improve your class participation grade. The following books are required reading for the course. Copies may be purchased at the Barnes and Noble Campus Bookstore, Bearkat Books, Kampus Korner or on-line through websites such as amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. You may use any editions of the works listed below.

Mandatory books:

Robert H. Abzug, *Cosmos Crumbling: American Reform and the Religious Imagination*

Catherine Allgor, *Parlor Politics: In Which the Ladies of Washington Help Build a City and a Government*

John S. Eisenhower, *So Far From God: The US War With Mexico, 1846-1848*

John Ehle, *Trail of Tears: The Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation*

Joseph Ellis, *American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson*

Joanne B. Freeman, *Affairs of Honor: National Politics in the New Republic*

Forrest McDonald, *Novus Ordo Seclorum: The Intellectual Origins of the Constitution*

Choose one of the following mandatory books to read:

James Oakes, *The Ruling Race: A History of American Slaveholders*

Deborah Gray White, *Ar'n't I a Woman?: Female Slaves in the Plantation South*

Attendance: As we only meet once a week, it is vital that both students and professor attend class on time and stay for the entire class. Attendance will be taken at each class. Please notify me as soon as possible if you are unable to attend class.

Assignments: You will have to complete three writing assignments for this class as listed below:

1. **Review of Professional Book Reviews:** Students will read three book reviews of one of the books from the assigned reading list. Excellent book review can be found in periodicals such as *Reviews in American History*, *William and Mary Quarterly*, and the *New York Review of Books*. Students will then write a 3-5 page review that critiques the three book reviews you have chosen. In general, what does each scholar think about the book they are reviewing? What methods do they use to critique and analyze the book? Do you agree with their interpretation of the book under consideration? How would you rate the book in question?
2. **Book Review and Book Report:** Students will read a book of their choice from the recommended reading list below and provide a brief book report for that week's class. You will also have to submit a short 3-5 page book review of the book in question by the following class.
3. **Historiographical or brief research paper:** Students will write an 8-10 paper that examines either an in-depth examination of a particular historical event (ie. slave revolts in Virginia, settler-native relations or Andrew Jackson's leadership style) or a historiographical trend (such as how historians over the course of the 20th century have interpreted the U.S.-Mexican War). Be certain to select a clear, concise topic that ideally both interests you and that is manageable given your current time constraints.

Grading: The final grade for this course will be based on the review of professional book reviews (20%), book review and book report (10% each), historiographical or brief research paper (30%), and class attendance and participation (30%). My grading scale is as follows: A+ = 97-100, A=93-96, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C=73-76, C- = 70-72, D = 60-69, F = 59 or lower. As this is a graduate level course you must earn an A or B to receive passing course credit. Pluses and minuses will be dropped on your final grade for the course.

Academic Honesty: In accordance with Sam Houston State University's Academic Policy Statement 810213, "all students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials." See <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty> for more information.

Keeping On Top of Assignments: Before each Tuesday's class, I will post lecture outlines, key terms, study questions, and course updates for the upcoming week in the announcement and assignment sections of Blackboard. It's a good idea to consult Blackboard's announcement and assignment sections periodically for updates and changes to the semester schedule.

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If the student has a disability that may affect adversely their work in this class, then he or she needs to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how they can best be helped. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. See

<http://www.shsu.edu/~vafwww/aps/811006.html> and
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf for more information.

Religious Holidays: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

“Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor’s discretion whether or not he/she will be allowed to remain.

Instructor Evaluations: Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Required Supplies: Students are required to bring pens or pencils and notebooks to class for note taking. Students are also required to buy the textbook stated above for the class and to secure copies of the additional, on-line readings for the course specified on Blackboard.

Classroom Conduct: Classes tend to run more smoothly if students and professors observe a few basic ground rules. Laptops and other internet devices are not permitted in class. Please arrive to class on time and stay for the entire class. I reserve the right to count you absent for repeated tardiness, leaving early, or generally disrupting class by talking, sleeping, listening to music, eating, drinking, text messaging, reading materials for other classes, etc. Particularly difficult students may be advised to drop, find their final grades lowered, or even given failing grades for the course. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline can be found at <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

Running Into Problems: Over the course of the semester, you may run into problems that range from falling behind in the course to medical or family related emergencies. If you find yourself in such a situation, please contact me as soon as possible so that we may address the matter directly. I am also available during office hours or by appointment for help, tutoring, or advice as needed. For more general help, consider visiting the SAM Center, the Reading Center, or the Writing Center if you are having trouble with note taking, completing assignments, or studying for exams.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Class	Discussion Topic	Reading Assignments
Week 2: Mon. Jan. 21	MLK Day: No Class	
Week 3: Mon. Jan. 28	Introduction	Course Syllabus and Assignment Guidelines
Week 4: Mon. Feb. 4	Enshrining Liberty	McDonald, <i>Novus Ordo Seclorum</i>
Week 5: Mon. Feb. 11	Founding Playerhatters	Freeman, <i>Affairs of Honor</i>
Week 6: Mon., Feb. 18	Jeffersonian America	Ellis, <i>American Sphinx</i>
Week 7: Mon. Feb. 25	Women in Early America	Allgor, <i>Parlor Politics</i>
Week 8: Mon. Mar. 3	Research Day: No Class	(Work on class assignments)
Week 9: Mon. Mar. 10	Spring Break: No Class	
Week 10: Mon. Mar. 17	Keeping the Faith	Abzug, <i>Cosmos Crumbling</i>
Week 11: Mon. Mar. 24	Jackson and the Indians I	Ehle, <i>Trail of Tears</i> (first half)
Week 12: Mon. Mar. 31	Jackson and the Indians II	Ehle, <i>Trail of Tears</i> (second half)
Week 13: Mon. Apr. 7	Halls of Montezuma I	Eisenhower, <i>So Far From God</i> (second half)
Week 14: Mon. Apr. 14	Halls of Montezuma II	Eisenhower, <i>So Far From God</i> (first half)

Week 15: Mon. Apr. 21	Surviving Slavery	Oakes, <i>The Ruling Race or White, Ar'n't I a Woman?</i>
Week 16: Mon. Apr. 28	Research Day: No Class	(Work on remaining class assignments)
Week 17: Mon. May 5	Coming of the Civil War	Movie Night (Movie to be announced)

RECCOMENDED READINGS FOR BOOK REPORTS AND BOOK REVIEWS:

Enshrining Liberty

- Amar, Akhil Reed. *America's Constitution: A Biography* (2006)
- Cornell, Saul. *The Other Founders: Anti-Federalism and the Dissenting Tradition in America, 1788-1828* (1999)
- Holton, Woody. *Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution* (2007)
- Jennson, Merrill. *Articles of Confederation: An Interpretation of the Social Constitutional History of the American Revolution, 1774-1781* (1959)
- Rakove, Jack. *Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution* (1996)
- Wood, Gordon S. *Creation of the American Republic* (1969)

Founding Playerhaters

- Appleby, Joyce. *Capitalism and a New Social Order* (1984)
- Chernow, Ron. *Alexander Hamilton* (2004)
- Elkins, Stanley, and Eric L. McKittrick. *The Age of Federalism* (1993)
- Ellis, Joseph J. *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* (2000)
- Isenberg, Nancy. *Fallen Founder: The Life of Aaron Burr* (2007)

Jeffersonian America

- Ellis, Joseph J. *Passionate Sage The Character and Legacy of John Adams* (2001)
- Ellis, Richard E. *The Jeffersonian Crisis: Courts and Politics in the Young Republic* (1971)
- McCoy, Drew. *The Elusive Republic: Political Economy in Jeffersonian America* (1996)
- Montgomery, M.R. *Jefferson and the Gunmen: How the West Was Almost Lost* (2000)
- Taylor, Alan. *William Cooper's Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early American Republic* (1995)
- Waldstreicher, David. *In the Midst of Perpetual Fetes: The Making of American Nationalism, 1776-1820* (1998)

Women in Early America

- Boylan, Anne. *The Origins of Women's Activism: New York and Boston, 1797-1840* (2002)
- Bynum, Victoria E. *Unruly Women: The Politics of Social and Sexual Control in the Old South* (1992)
- Diner, Hasia. *Erin's Daughters in America: Irish Immigrant Women in the Nineteenth Century* (1983)
- Stansell, Christine. *City of Women: Sex and Class in New York, 1789-1860* (1986)
- Suzanne Lebsack. *Free Women of Petersburg: Status and Culture in a Southern Town, 1784-1860* (1985)
- Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard* (1990)

Keeping the Faith

- Abzug, Robert H. *Passionate Liberator: Theodore Dwight Weld and the Dilemma of Reform* (1983)
- Heyrman, Christine Leigh. *Southern Cross* (1997)
- McKivigan, John. *Religion and the Antebellum Debate over Slavery* (1998)
- Raboteau, Albert. *Slave Religion: The "Invisible Institution" in the Antebellum South* (1978)
- Snay, Mitchell. *Gospel of Disunion; Religion and Separatism in the Antebellum South* (1993)
- Stewart, James Brewer. *Holy Warriors: The Abolitionists and American Slavery* (1997)

Jackson and the Indians

- Cave, Alfred A. *Abuse of Power: Andrew Jackson and the Indian Removal Act of 1830* (2003)
- Hoxie, Frederick E., Ronald Hoffman, and Peter J. Albert, eds. *Native Americans and the Early Republic*

(1999)

Remini, Robert. *Andrew Jackson and His Indian Wars* (2001)

Sellers, Charles. *The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846* (1991)

Wallace, Anthony F.C. *The Long, Bitter Trail: Andrew Jackson and the Indians* (1993)

Watson, Harry L. *Liberty and Power: The Politics of Jacksonian America* (1990)

Surviving Slavery

Berlin, Ira. *Generations of Captivity* (2003)

Genovese, Eugene. *Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made* (1974)

Hahn, Steven. *A Nation under Our Feet* (2003)

Horton, James O., and Lois Horton. *In Hope of Liberty: Culture, Community and Protest among Northern Free Blacks, 1700-1860* (1997)

Johnson, Walter. *Soul by Soul: Life inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (1999)

Kolchin, Peter. *American Slavery, 1619-1877* (1993)

Halls of Montezuma

Foos, Paul. *A Short, Offhand, Killing Affair: Soldiers and Social Conflict during the Mexican War* (2002)

Frazier, Donald S. *The U.S. and Mexico at War* (1998)

Johnson, Susan Lee. *Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush* (2000)

Pletcher, David M. *The Diplomacy of Annexation: Texas, Oregon, and the Mexican War* (1973)

Robinson, Cecil. *The View From Chapultepec: Mexican Writers on the Mexican War* (1989)

Schroeder, John H. *Mr. Polk's War: American Opposition and Dissent, 1846-1848* (1973)

Coming of the Civil War

David M. Potter. *The Impending Crisis, 1848-1861* (1976)

Foner, Eric. *Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: the Ideology of the Republican Party before the Civil War* (1970)

McPherson, James. *Battle Cry of Freedom* (1988)

Oates, Stephen B. *Approaching Fury: Voices Of The Storm, 1820-1861* (1998)

Thomas, Emory M. *The Confederate Nation, 1861-1865* (1979)

William Freehling. *Road to Disunion: The Secessionists at Bay 1787-1854* (1990)