

AMH4160: The Early Republic, 1789-1848

Professor Sean Adams
MWF Period 5 (11:45-12:35)
Keene-Flint 105

Course Introduction and Objectives

This class covers the history of the United States during the first five decades of the nineteenth century. Rather than use a strict narrative account of these years, we will instead focus our attention upon three major themes. First, this course will examine the formation of the American nation in terms of political structure, culture, and society during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Second, we will examine the many meanings of Jacksonian “democracy” and the political changes that occurred during these years. Finally, we will discuss the increasingly diverse growth of the North and the South and the controversies surrounding American slavery by the time of the War with Mexico. By the conclusion of this course, I hope that you leave with a greater understanding for the early history of the United States, and also a enhanced appreciation for the many complexities involved in the formation of the American nation.

After completing this course, students will have a greater appreciation of this critical period of American history. Students also should expect to spend time analyzing primary sources, the “raw ore” of historical research, as well as synthesizing them into broader historical arguments. Over the course of the semester, students will also hone verbal and written arguments that use both primary and secondary sources in order to address complex historical questions.

Required Readings

Assigned readings will come from the following six books. Check each class session to see what readings are due for that day and come to class ready to discuss. Otherwise, you run the risk of getting lost as you try to catch up with the rest of the class. In order to participate in the class—and participation will be figured into your grade—you need to have the assigned readings completed. All of the following books are required for the course.

1. Joanne B. Freeman, *Affairs of Honor: National Politics in the New Republic* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002). ISBN 0300097557
2. Anthony F.C. Wallace, *The Long, Bitter Trail: Andrew Jackson and the Indians* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1993). ISBN 0-8090-1552-8
3. Paul E. Johnson and Sean Wilentz, *The Kingdom of Matthias. A Story of Sex and Salvation in 19th Century America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994). ISBN 0-19-509835-8
4. Harry L. Watson, *Liberty and Power: The Politics of Jacksonian America*. Rev. ed. (New York: Hill and Wang, 2006). ISBN 0809065479

5. Timothy J. Henderson, *A Glorious Defeat. Mexico and its War with the United States* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2007) ISBN 0809049678

6. Sean Patrick Adams, *The Early American Republic: A Documentary Reader* (Boston: Wiley Blackwell, 2009) ISBN 9781405160988

Assignments and Grading

Your grade on this class will be determined by your performance on a variety of written assignments, including essay exams and papers, and your participation in the course. The major written determinants of your grade in this course will be your performance on two take-home exams (5-7 pp.), a series of smaller papers derived from primary sources, and a take-home final exam. The lowest two primary source analyses grades may be dropped—in other words, you are responsible for turning in six (6) of these over the course of the semester. In addition, your attendance and class discussion will contribute to your grade. The breakdown of the grades and the grading scale are as follows:

| Grade Calculation | Grading Scale | Grade Value |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| First Exam: 20% | 100-93=A | A=4.0 |
| Second Exam: 20% | 92-90=A- | A-=3.67 |
| Primary Source Analyses: 25% | 89-87=B+ | B+=3.33 |
| Participation: 10% | 86-82=B | B=3.00 |
| Final Exam 25% | 82-80=B- | B-=2.67 |
| | 79-76=C+ | C+=2.33 |
| | 75-72=C | C=2.00 |
| | 71-69=C- | C-=1.67 |
| | 68-66=D+ | D+=1.33 |
| | 65-62=D | D=1.00 |
| | 61-60=D- | D-=0.67 |
| | 59-0=E | E=0.00 |
| | | |

I will provide you with details regarding the guidelines, expectations, and evaluation of this written work over the course of the semester. This is yet another reason why regular attendance in this course is not optional, but mandatory. Any more than three (3) unexcused absences will result in a reduction of the participation grade by a full letter. More than six (6) absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Please be respectful to your fellow students by turning off all cell phones and pagers, arriving on time, and please avoid making excessive noise. You may use a computer to take notes, but any distracting web surfing, game playing, or other behavior will not be tolerated. Students who do not abide by these simple rules of courtesy will be asked to leave.

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation

must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class, as it constitutes intellectual theft and academic dishonesty. If you turn in the work of others and try to pass it off as your own, you will fail that assignment and risk expulsion from the University of Florida. I will give you the guidelines, expectations, and other information regarding the written work in this course, so you really have no reason to cheat. I take these matters very seriously and will prosecute vigorously if provoked. Any possible rewards derived from plagiarism simply don't justify the risk! All students must conform to UF's honesty policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, and the use of copyrighted materials, which you can find at

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>.

Your major assignments will be monitored with the Turnitin Anti-Plagiarism Service, so please keep in mind that cheating on the assignments in this course will be much more difficult than actually doing the work.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

(topics, due dates, and other scheduled events are subject to revision by the instructor)

Section One: The Struggle to Make a Nation

Week One: Introduction

August 22 Introduction to the Course

August 24 Everyday Life in 1789

Readings: Freeman, *Affairs of Honor*, pp. xiii-xxiv; Watson, *Liberty and Power*, pp. 3-15; Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 1-9.

Week Two: The New Republic

August 27 "No Event Could Have Filled Me with Greater Anxieties"

Readings: "First Inaugural Address of George Washington, April 30, 1789," in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, 13-16; Freeman, *Affairs of Honor*, pp. 1-10.

August 29 A Landscape of Challenges

Readings: Wallace, *The Long, Bitter Trail*, pp. 3-49; "Tickagiska King Addresses President George Washington, May 19, 1789," in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 16-17.

August 31 How to Make a Republican Society?

Readings: Freeman, *Affairs of Honor*, pp. 11-61; "Western Pennsylvanians Petition Against Taxes, March 19, 1790," in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 17-20.

Week Three: Early Crisis

September 3 Labor Day Holiday—No Class

September 5 Federalists in Control

Readings: Freeman, *Affairs of Honor*, pp. 62-104; “A Federalist Appeal to Voters, 1792,” in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 21-24.

September 7 Who Are Aliens? What Is Sedition?

Readings: Freeman, *Affairs of Honor*, pp. 105-198; “Abigail Adams on the Partisan Press, 1797,” “Matthew Lyon Criticizes ‘Aristocratic’ Politics, 1797,” and “A Massachusetts Farmer Attacks the Federalists, 1798,” in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 24-28.

First Primary Source Analysis Due Today

Week Four: Jefferson’s America

September 10 The Revolution of 1800

Readings: Freeman, *Affairs of Honor*, pp. 199-262; “First Inaugural Address of Thomas Jefferson, 1801,” in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 29-32.

September 12 Jefferson’s America

Readings: “A New Name for the United States?” and “Rules of Etiquette in Jefferson’s White House, 1803,” in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 33-38.

September 14 Dambargo!

Readings: Freeman, *Affairs of Honor*, pp. 262-293.

Second Primary Source Analysis Due Today

Week Five: The American Republic at War

September 17 Tension on the Borderlands

Readings: “Lewis and Clark Make American Claims in the ‘Great West,’ 1805,” “Tecumseh Speaks Out Againsts American Policy in the Old Northwest, 1810,” and “An Artist’s Depiction of Scalping During the War of 1812,” in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 39-46.

September 19 The Wars of 1812, Part 1

Readings: “James Madison Justifies War with the British, 1812,” in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 47-50.

September 21 The Wars of 1812, Part 2

“The Hartford Convention Denounces the War, December 15, 1814,” and “An Eyewitness Account of the Battle of New Orleans, 1816” in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 50-57.

Third Primary Source Analysis Due Today

Section Two: A Nation on the Move

Week Six: The Republic Remade

September 24 A Half-Century of Revolution

Readings: Watson, *Liberty and Power*, pp. 17-72.

September 26 First Exam Period

September 28 America in 1819

Readings: "A Poem About a Panic, 1819," "Americans on Their Way to a Camp Revival, 1819," and "A Satirist Looks at the American Militia, 1819," in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 61-66.

Week Seven: Expansion

October 1 Internal Improvement

Readings: "John C. Calhoun Promotes Federal Internal Improvements, 1817" and "The Erie Canal Hits the American Stage, 1830," in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 67-70, 79-83.

October 3 The New West

Readings: "An Englishwoman Remembers Her First Illinois Winter, 1848" and "Frances Trollope Describes Cincinnati, 1832," in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 83-86, 102-105.

October 5

Making the "Old South"

Readings: "Maine Answers the 'Missouri Question,' 1820," "Charles Ball Describes Moving in the Slave Trade, 1837," "Henry Bibb Describes Slave Labor in the Cotton Fields, 1849," in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 72-75, 86-90, 99-101.

Fourth Primary Source Analysis Due Today

Week Eight: A New North

October 8 The Producer's Republic: Northern Capitalism in the Early Republic

Readings: "Lydia Marie Child on the Family Economy and Soapmaking, 1830" and "Two Views on the Morality of Capitalism in the Early Republic, 1834 and 1836," in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 96-99.

October 10 Work and Workers in the Early Republic

October 12 Dirty B'Hoys and Fallen Women: New York City as an Urban Problem

Readings: "A Poem Composed to Cholera, 1832" and "A Raucous Omnibus Ride in New York City, 1849" in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 105-112.

Fifth Primary Source Analysis Due Today

Week Nine: Knowing One's Place

- October 15 Burned Over: Religious Revivals in the North
 Readings: "Radical Quakers Appeal to Frances Wright, 1828," "Rev. Charles Finney on Changing One's Own Heart, 1836," and "Zilpha Elaw Remembers Preaching in the North and South, 1846" in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 115-121.
- October 17 Separate Spheres:
 Readings: Begin Johnson & Wilentz, *The Kingdom of Matthias*.
- October 19 Discussion: Sex and Salvation in Early America
 Readings: Johnson & Wilentz, *The Kingdom of Matthias*, pp. 3-179.

Week Ten: The Promise of the Republic

- October 22 Reforming the Republic
 Readings: "Boston Physicians on Temperance, 1832," "Mathew Carey Advocates Reform for Seamstresses, 1833," "The American Colonization Society Appeals to Congress, 1820," "African-American Leaders Reject Colonization Schemes, 1831," "Declaration of Sentiments of the American Anti-Slavery Society, 1833" and "Maria Stewart Speaks at African Masonic Hall, 1833" in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 70-72, 122-127, 131-144.
- October 24 Sylvester Graham: American Reformer
 Readings: "Sylvester Graham Denounces 'The Appetites,' 1837," in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 127-131.
Sixth Primary Source Analysis Due Today
- October 26 The Politics of Reform

Week Eleven: The Rise of the Common Man

- October 29 Defining the "Common Man" in the North and South
 Readings: "David Walker Describes the Condition of Free African-Americans, 1829" and "Sarah Grimké Defends the Rights of Women, 1837" in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 152-158.
- October 31 The Elections of 1824 and 1828
 Readings: "The Inauguration of Andrew Jackson, 1829" in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 147-152; Watson, *Liberty and Power*, pp. 73-131.
- November 2 Democracy: The Party of Jackson

Section Three: Jacksonian America

Week Twelve: The Monster

November 5 The Bank War
Watson, *Liberty and Power*, pp. 132-171.

November 7 Second Exam Period

November 9 Homecoming Holiday—No Class

Week Thirteen: The Second American Party System

November 12 American Whiggery
“A Violent Election Season in New York City, 1834,” “Henry Clay on Whig Strategy, 1838,” and “New Hampshire Papers Debate the ‘Log Cabin’ Campaign, 1840,” in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 167-173.

November 14 Indian Removal and the “Common Man”
Readings: Wallace, *The Long, Bitter, Trail*, pp. 45-120

November 16 The Rise and Fall of American Whiggery
Readings: Watson, *Liberty and Power*, pp. 172-230.
Seventh Primary Source Due Today

Week Fourteen: What Hath Jackson Wrought?

November 19 The Legacy of the Second American Party System
Readings: Watson, *Liberty and Power*, pp. 231-253.

November 21 Thanksgiving Holiday—No Class

November 23 Thanksgiving Holiday—No Class

Week Fifteen: A Clash of Two Republics

November 26 Young America and Old Mexico
Readings: “An Editor Endorses the Idea of ‘Manifest Destiny,’ 1845,” and “Walter Colton on the Discovery of Gold in California, 1850,” in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 185-194; Henderson, *A Glorious Defeat*, pp. 3-74.

November 28 All of Texas and All of Oregon
Readings: “Sam Houston’s Inaugural Address for the Republic of Texas, 1836,” in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 185-188; Henderson, *A Glorious Defeat*, pp. 75-132.

November 30 Conflict on the Borderlands
Readings: “President Polk’s War Message, 1846,” in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 195-199; Henderson, *A Glorious Defeat*, pp. 133-156.

Eighth Primary Source Analysis Due Today

Week Sixteen: War With Mexico

December 3 The Halls of Montezuma

Readings: "An American Sergeant's Perspective on the War with Mexico, 1847" in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 199-203; Henderson, *A Glorious Defeat*, pp. 157-178.

December 5 The Occupation and the Peace

Readings: "Guillermo Prieto Describes the Occupation of Mexico City, 1850" in Adams, *The Early American Republic*, pp. 204-207; Henderson, *A Glorious Defeat*, pp. 179-191.

Final Exam Period: Friday, December 14, 2012.

Contact Information for Dr. Adams:

Office: 227 Keene-Flint Hall

Tel: (352) 273-3354

E-mail: spadams@history.ufl.edu

Website: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/spadams/>

Office Hours: Mondays, 3-5 p.m.; Wednesdays, 9-10 a.m.; by appointment