

## **Jacksonian America History 5454 Fall 2009**

**Dr. Keith Bohannon, Department of History, University of West Georgia**

**This course meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9-9:50 a.m. in Room 206, Pafford**

**Office Hours- Monday and Wednesday, 8:30-9, 10-11, 1:30-3:30; Friday, 8:30-9:00, 10-11 and by appointment**

**Office- Technology Learning Center, Room 3247 Phone- 678-839-6045**

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History 5454 will examine the major themes and subjects in United States history between 1815 and 1848. As the course title suggests, particular attention will be paid to economic, social, and political developments that took place during the presidential administrations of Andrew Jackson. Jackson's treatment of Native Americans, his struggle against the Bank of the United States, and his handling of such issues as the tariff and internal improvements all had important repercussions on the development of the United States.

This course is designed to achieve several learning outcomes. Students will be responsible for demonstrating an understanding of Jacksonian America through response papers, tests, regular discussions, and book reviews. We will use primary documents, secondary sources, and short films to analyze some of the most important subjects in early nineteenth-century U. S. History. Students will be encouraged to develop their own independent opinions about the central issues of this time period and recognize that historical subjects and issues are often matters of controversy among scholars.

### **Course Requirements**

Midterm- 15%

Final Exam- 15%

Response Papers (in class)- 20%

Book Reviews- 15%

Research Paper- 35%

There will be no extra credit offered in this course.

**Midterm and Final Exam-** The midterm and final exam will cover material from the assigned readings and lectures.

**Response Papers-** There will be several analytical papers written in class throughout the semester in response to assigned readings.

**Book Review-** Students will turn in typed (12 point font), critical essays that are 3-5 pages in length on two of the five assigned books (Toqueville and Watson). The paper must utilize proper endnote or footnote citations (see details in section on Research Paper.) A third book review, due November 6, will examine an important secondary source relevant to the research paper.

**Research Paper-** The research paper will be 15-18 pages in length examining a subject related to the major themes of the course. It must utilize primary and secondary sources and place its argument within the context of the historiography in the field. The paper must use proper footnote or endnote citations in accordance with Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Term Papers . . .* (based on the *Chicago Manual*). The Turabian style is explained at <http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/turabian.html>

On September 25, students will turn in an introduction and annotated bibliography of their papers. The introduction, which should be no more than a page in length, should state the main historical question that the paper will examine and the probable answer to that question.

**Students needing assistance with writing are encouraged to turn in early drafts of papers or take them to the Writing Center: <http://www.westga.edu/~writing>**

**Late policy and makeup assignments- All assignments must be turned in during class on the day they are due or they will be considered late.** One letter grade will be deducted per day for all assignments turned in late.

Makeup assignments will be given only under emergency circumstances. Students taking a makeup assignment must have a written excuse explaining their absence from class.

**Attendance-** Regular attendance is critical to earning a passing grade in this course. Attendance will be taken on a daily basis and will be considered at the end of the semester in assigning course grades. If a student misses class, it is his/her responsibility to find out what was missed.

Students who need to leave during class must provide an excuse to the instructor before the class begins. Anyone who leaves during class without providing an excuse will be marked absent and will receive a grade of zero on any assignment given that day, even in the student completed the assignment.

**Cheating-** I expect every student to read and comply with the University of West Georgia policies on Academic Honor and Academic Dishonesty, found in the student handbook. Cheating in any form (including plagiarism-presenting someone else's words as your own without properly citing them) will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive an F on the assignment and probably an F in the course.

**Assigned texts (Note: Students purchasing the books from the campus bookstore are encouraged to do so early in the semester.)**

Cain, William E., ed. William Lloyd Garrison and the Fight Against Slavery

Faragher, John Mack, Sugar Creek

Green, Michael and Theda Perdue, eds. The Cherokee Removal

Tocqueville, Alexis de, Democracy in America

Watson, Harry L. Liberty and Power

Wilentz, Sean, Andrew Jackson

**NOTE: All readings that are not listed above, with two exceptions (Weeks 3 and 6), have been placed online. Directions on gaining access to the online readings will be handed out during the first week of class. Please contact me if you have any problems with the online readings.**

#### **Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments**

**Week 1 August 10-14** Background to Jacksonian America

**Week 2 August 17-21** Politics of Jacksonian America **Online reserve reading: Altina Waller, "Peggy Eaton and Andrew Jackson: A Presidential Scandal"**

**Week 3 August 24-28** Politics of Jacksonian America **Handouts: Mary P. Ryan, "Antebellum Politics as Raucous Democracy" and Glenn Altschuler and Stuart Blumin, "Antebellum Politics as Political Manipulation" in Major Problems in American History Vol. I**

**Week 4 Aug 31-Sept 4** Politics of Jacksonian America **Online reserve reading: Andrew Jackson's "Veto of the Bank Bill" and "Farewell Address," Henry Clay's "On the American System," and "Henry Clay, Ideologue of the Center" from Daniel W. Howe, Political Culture of the American Whigs**

**Week 5 September 7-11** Growth of the Old South & Slavery **Book Review of Watson, Liberty and Power due Sept. 11**

**Week 6 September 14-18** Proslavery Ideology **Handouts: John C. Calhoun, "Speech in the U.S. Senate," T.R.R. Cobb, "Effects of Abolition in the United States," Rev. A.T. Holmes, "The Duties of Christian Masters," Protestant Episcopal Convention of S.C., "Duty of Clergymen in Relation to the Marriage of Slaves" from Paul Finkleman, ed., Defending Slavery**

**Week 7 Sept 21-25** Second Great Awakening & Reform **Online reserve Readings: Charles G. Finney, Horace Mann, Catherine Beecher, Margaret Fuller, Declaration of Sentiments, and Sojourner Truth in For the Record, 385-388; 398-411. Introduction and bibliography due on Sept 25**

**Week 8 Sept 28-Oct 2** Rise of Abolitionism **Cain, William Lloyd Garrison, due on October 2**

**Week 9 October 5-9** The Market Revolution **Note: MIDTERM on Friday, October 9**

**Week 10 October 12-16 Note: No class on Oct 16 (Fall Break) The Market Revolution contd. Online reserve readings: Hezekiah Niles & Josephine Baker in For the Record; Thomas Dublin, "Women, Work and Protest in the Early Lowell Mills"**

**Week 11 October 19-23 Immigration/Foreign observers of Jacksonian American  
Book review of Toqueville, Democracy in America, due October 23**

**Week 12 October 26-30 Cherokee Removal Perdue and Green, The Cherokee Removal due on Fri, Oct 30**

**Week 13 November 2-6 No class on Friday, Nov 6 Antebellum Literary Developments Online reserve readings: Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The American Scholar" and "Self Reliance" due Wednesday, November 4  
Book review due on November 6**

**Week 14 November 9-13 Manifest Destiny Faragher, Sugar Creek due Friday, November 13**

**Week 15 November 16-20 The Mexican War and the End of an Age Online reserve readings: "Was the Mexican War an Exercise in American Imperialism?" in Taking Sides, 254-277; Polk's War Message to Congress and Henry Clay 1847 Speech about the Mexican War, in For the Record, 435-438, 446-453.**

**Week 16 November 23-27 Note: No class on Wednesday, Nov 25 or Friday, Nov 27, Thanksgiving Break The Mexican War and the End of an Age contd.**

**Week 17 November 30-Dec 4 Research Paper due November 30 Last day of class is Friday, Dec 4 Wilentz, Andrew Jackson due on Dec. 4**

**Final Exam is on Monday, December 7, 8-10 a.m. in Pafford, 206**