

Jacksonian America History 4454 Fall 2011

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, 10-11, 1:30-4:30; Wednesday, 10-11, 1:30-4:00; Friday, 10-11 and by appointment

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History 4454 examines 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 significant topics in 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 are often matters of controversy among scholars.

Course Requirements

Midterm- 25%

Final Exam- 25%

Response Papers (in class)- 25%

Book Reviews- 25%

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 weekly assigned readings.

Book Reviews- Students will turn in typed (12 point font), critical essays that are 3-5 pages in length on three of the assigned books (Toqueville, Watson and Aron). All papers must utilize proper endnote or footnote citations in accordance with Kate 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>

Students needing assistance with writing are encouraged to turn in early drafts of papers or take them to the UWG 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 possibly 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.)

Aron, Stephen, How The West Was Lost

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

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

Johnson, Paul E. A Shopkeeper's Millennium

Tocqueville, Alexis de, Democracy in America

Watson, Harry L. Liberty and Power

NOTE: All readings that are not listed above 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. Unless otherwise stated, the weekly reading assignments are due on Fridays.

Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments

Week 1 August 22-26 Background to Jacksonian America

Week 2 August 29-September 2 Politics of Jacksonian America Altina Waller, "Peggy Eaton and Andrew Jackson: A Presidential Scandal"

Week 3 Sept 5-9 No class on Sept. 5 Politics of Jacksonian America 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 Sept 12-16 Politics of Jacksonian America 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 Note: The last page of Andrew Jackson, "Veto of the Bank Bill" is at the beginning of the Docutek document entitled Henry Clay, "On the American System"

Week 5 September 19-23 Growth of the Old South & Slavery **BOOK REVIEW** of Watson, Liberty and Power due Sept. 23

Week 6 Sept 26-30 Proslavery Ideology 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 Finkelman, ed., Defending Slavery

Week 7 Oct 3-7 Second Great Awakening & Reform **Johnson, Shopkeeper's Millennium due**

Week 8 Oct 10-14 No class on Oct 14 (Fall Break) Rise of Abolitionism Cain, William Lloyd Garrison, due on October 12

Week 9 October 17-21 The Market Revolution **NOTE: MIDTERM on Friday, October 21**

Week 10 Oct 24-28 No class on Friday, Oct. 28 The Market Revolution contd. **Online reserve readings due Wednesday, Oct. 26: Hezekiah Niles & Josephine Baker in For the Record; Thomas Dublin, "Women, Work and Protest in the Early Lowell Mills"**

Week 11 Oct. 31-Nov. 4 Immigration/Foreign observers of Jacksonian American **BOOK REVIEW** of Toqueville, Democracy in America, due Nov. 4

Week 12 Nov. 7-11 Cherokee Removal **Perdue and Green, The Cherokee Removal due on Fri, Nov. 11**

Week 13 November 14-18 Manifest Destiny **BOOK REVIEW** of Stephen Aron, How The West Was Lost, due Nov. 18

Nov. 21-25 Thanksgiving Break

Week 14 Nov. 28-Dec. 2 The Mexican War and the End of an Age "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. **NOTE: Polk's War Message and the Henry Clay 1847 Speech are in the same Docutek Course Reserve Document entitled "Polk's War Message to Congress"**

Week 15 Dec. 5-7 FINAL EXAM IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 8-10 IN PAFFORD, 206