

**Jacksonian America**  
**History 5454**

**Dr. Keith Bohannon, Department of History**

**Fall 2007- This course meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9-9:50 a.m. in Room 206, Pafford**

**Office Hours- 10-11, 1-3:30 and by appointment**

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

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History 4454 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 questions 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- 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 assigned readings.

**Book Reviews-** Students will turn in typed, critical essays that are 3-5 pages in length on three of the five assigned books (Toqueville, Watson, and Faragher).

**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 if the student completed the assignment.

**Cheating-** 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. (Note: Students should be aware that software and search engines make it relatively easy for instructors to discover text taken from the Internet.)

**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 (University of Chicago edition)

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 13-17** Background to Jacksonian America

**Week 2 August 20-24** Politics of Jacksonian America **Online reserve reading: Altina Waller, "Peggy Eaton and Andrew Jackson: A Presidential Scandal"**

**Week 3 August 27-31** 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 Sept 3-7** No class on Mon, Sept. 3 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 10-14** Growth of the Old South & Slavery **Book Review of Watson, Liberty and Power due Sept. 14**

**Week 6 September 17-21** 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 24-28** 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.**

**Week 8 October 1-5** Rise of Abolitionism **Response paper on Cain, William Lloyd Garrison on October 5**

**Week 9 October 8-12** Note: No class on Friday, October 12 (Fall Break) **The Market Revolution Note: MIDTERM on Wednesday, October 10**

**Week 10 October 15-19** 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 22-26** Immigration/Foreign observers of Jacksonian American **Book review of Toqueville, Democracy in America, due October 26**

**Week 12 October 29-Nov. 2** Note: No class on Friday, Nov. 2 **Cherokee Removal Perdue and Green, The Cherokee Removal due on Wed., Oct 31**

**Week 13 November 5-9** Antebellum Literary Developments **Online reserve readings: Ralph Waldo Emerson, “The American Scholar” and “Self Reliance”**

**Week 14 November 12-16** Manifest Destiny **Book Review of Faragher, Sugar Creek due Friday, November 16**

**Week 15 November 19-23 Note: No classes on Wed, Nov. 21, and Fri, Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving break) The Mexican War and the End of an Age**

**Week 16 November 26-30 The Mexican War and the End of an Age contd. 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 17 December 3-5 Last day of class is Wednesday, December 5 Wilentz, Andrew Jackson due on Dec. 5**

**Final Exam is on Wednesday, December 12, from 8-10 a.m. in Pafford, 206**