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History 725: United States Historiography I
Fall 2009
OMH 102 ● Tuesday (6:30-9:15pm)

This course is an introduction to some of the major historiographical issues in American history from the colonial period through Reconstruction. The course is not a comprehensive overview of American history; it is selective in its coverage and is, in large measure, reflective of the professor's expertise and interests. The purpose of the seminar is simple: to teach you to think like a historian. To that end, I have organized the readings around a series of historiographical debates, which you will assess in discussions and in review essays.

Required Readings: The following works are required for this seminar. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are either on reserve or are available through www.jstor.org. Please note that many of this works are available used through online book sellers, often at considerable discounts.

Brown, Kathleen M. Good Wives, Nasty Wenches & Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race, and Power in Colonial Virginia. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996.
Bruegel, Martin. Farm, Shop, Landing: The Rise of a Market Society in the Hudson Valley, 1780-1860. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2002.
Bouton, Terry. Taming Democracy: "The People," the Founders, and the Troubled Ending of the American Revolution. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
Faust, Drew Gilpin. Mothers of Invention: Women of the Slaveholding South in the American Civil War. New York: Vintage, 1996.
Foner, Eric. Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution. New York: Harper & Row, 1988.
Gallagher, Gary W. The Confederate War: How Popular Will, Nationalism, and Military Strategy Could Not Stave Off Defeat. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1997.
Howe, Daniel Walker. What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
Morgan, Edmund D. American Slavery, American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia. New York, 1976.
Rockman, Seth. Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009.
Rosen, Hannah. Terror in the Heart of Freedom: Citizenship, Sexual Violence, and the Meaning of Race in the Postemancipation South. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009.
Sellers, Charles S. The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.
Waldstreich, David. Runaway America: Benjamin Franklin, Slavery, and the American Revolution. New York: Hill & Wang, 2004.
Wilentz, Sean. Chants Democratic: New York City and the Rise of the American Working Class, 1788 -1850. New York: Oxford University Press, 1984.
Wood, Gordon S. The Radicalism of the American Revolution. New York: Vintage, 1991.

Grading: Your final grade will be determined by five review essays, each of which is worth ten percent of your grade, and by your class participation, which is worth fifty percent of your grade.

Discussion Questions: Each week, one student will be asked to submit (via e-mail) a list of discussion questions to spur class discussion. These questions should be based on the required readings and are due the Friday before the seminar. The student who submitted the questions will also be responsible for leading—or at least opening—the week's discussion. **Your discussion questions and your work as moderator will be reflected in your participation grade.**

Review Essays: You are required to write five review essays, each of which is to be four to five pages in length. These essays will be based on the previous week's (or weeks') readings and should: 1) identify the major historiographical issues raised in the readings; 2) discuss the competing interpretive schools represented in the readings; 3) assess the strengths and weaknesses of these interpretations.

The essays are due at the beginning of class on the dates indicated in the syllabus. The papers must be type-written, double-spaced, free of grammatical errors, and the evidence must be cited with properly formatted footnotes. Late essays will not be accepted without a written excuse provided before the seminar.

Class Participation: This seminar cannot succeed without your informed participation. You are expected to come to class having completed the required readings and the review essays written by your colleagues. Failure to attend class without a written, verifiable excuse or to contribute to discussions reflects a lack of commitment to your studies and will harm your overall grade.

Graduate seminars are part of your professional development and I expect you to comport yourselves as professionals. Dress accordingly (no baseball caps, sunglasses, etc.) and refrain from foul language and colloquialisms.

Students with Disabilities: If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.

Address: The University of Southern Mississippi
Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College Drive #8586
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Voice Telephone: (601) 266-5024 or (228) 214-3232
Fax: (601) 266-6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or e-mail Suzy Herbert at Suzanne.Herbert@usm.edu.

Course Outline

Week One (25 August): Course Introduction

Week Two (1 September): Slavery and Race in the Colonial Chesapeake (part one)

*Degler, Carl N. "Slavery and the Genesis of American Race Prejudice." Comparative Studies in Society and History 2 (1959): 49-66.

*Fields, Barbara Jeanne. "Slavery, Race and Ideology in the United States of America." New Left Review, no. 181 (May/June 1990): 95-117.

*Handlin, Oscar and Mary Handlin. "Origins of the Southern Labor System." William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd Ser., 7 (1950): 199-222.

Morgan, Edmund D. American Slavery, American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia. New York, 1976.

*Vaughan, Alden T. "Blacks in Virginia: A Note on the First Decade." William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd Ser., 29 (1972): 469-78.

*Vaughan, Alden T. "The Origins Debate: Slavery and Racism in Seventeenth-Century Virginia." In Alden T. Vaughan, Roots of American Racism: Essays on the Colonial Experience. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

Week Three (8 September): Slavery and Race in the Colonial Chesapeake (part two)

Brown, Kathleen M. Good Wives, Nasty Wenches & Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race, and Power in Colonial Virginia. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996.
*Goetz, Rebecca Anne. "Rethinking the 'Unthinking Decision': Old Questions and New Problems in the History of Slavery and Race in the Colonial South." Journal of Southern History 75 (August 2009): 599-612.
*Scott, Joan M. "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis." American Historical Review 91 (December 1986): 1053-75.

Week Four (15 September): A Revolution? (part one)

Wood, Gordon S. The Radicalism of the American Revolution. New York: Vintage, 1991.
*"Forum: How Revolutionary Was the Revolution? A Discussion of Gordon S. Wood's The Radicalism of the American Revolution." William and Mary Quarterly 3rd ser. 51 (Oct. 1994): 677-716.

Week Five (22 September): A Revolution? (part two)

Waldstreich, David. Runaway America: Benjamin Franklin, Slavery, and the American Revolution. New York: Hill & Wang, 2004.
Historiographical essay on the readings discussed in weeks two and three due at the beginning of class.

Week Six (29 September): A Revolution? (part three)

Bouton, Terry. Taming Democracy: "The People," the Founders, and the Troubled Ending of the American Revolution. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
*Holton, Woody. "Did Democracy Cause the Recession That Led to the Constitution?" Journal of American History 92 (2005): 442-69.
*Young, Alfred E. The Shoemaker and the Tea Party: Memory and the American Revolution. Boston: Beacon Press, 2000. (SKIM for argument)

Week Seven (6 October): The Origins of American Capitalism

Bruegel, Martin. Farm, Shop, Landing: The Rise of a Market Society in the Hudson Valley, 1780-1860. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2002.
*Clark, Christopher. "Household Economy, Market Exchange, and the Rise of Capitalism in the Connecticut Valley, 1800-1860." Journal of Social History 13 (1979): 169-89.
*Henretta, James A. "Family and Farms: *Mentalité* in Pre-Industrial America." William and Mary Quarterly, 3rd ser., 35 (1978): 3-32.
*Merrill, Michael. "Cash is Good to Eat: Self-Sufficiency and Exchange in the Rural Economy of the United States." Radical History Review 3 (1977): 42-71.
Historiographical essay on the readings for weeks four, five, and six due at the beginning of class.

Week Eight (13 October): An American Working Class? (part one)

*Gutman, Herbert S. "Work, Culture and Society in Industrializing America, 1815-1919." American Historical Review 78 (1973): 531-88.
*Thompson, E. P. The Making of the English Working Class. New York: Vintage, 1963. (read preface)
Wilentz, Sean. Chants Democratic: New York City and the Rise of the American Working Class, 1788-1850. New York: Oxford University Press, 1984.

Week Nine (20 October): An American Working Class? (part two)

Rockman, Seth. Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery, and Survival in Early Baltimore. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009.
*Stearns, Peter N. "'You Are Too Sentimental': Problems and Suggestions for a New Labor History." Journal of Social History 17 (Summer 1984): 629-54.

*Way, Peter. "Evil Humors and Ardent Spirits: The Rough Culture of Canal Construction Laborers." Journal of American History 79 (March 1993): 1397- 1428.

Week Ten (27 October): Competing Visions of Jacksonian America (part one)

Sellers, Charles S. The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Historiographical essay on the readings for weeks eight and nine due at the beginning of class.

Week Eleven (3 November): Competing Visions of Jacksonian American (part two)

Howe, Daniel Walker. What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Week Twelve (10 November): Paternalism and Capitalism in the Old South

*Genovese, Eugene D. Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made. New York: Vintage, 1972. Read pp. 1-112 (SKIM for argument)

*Genovese, Eugene D. The World the Slaveholders Made: Two Essays in Interpretation (1988): 118-246.

*Johnson, Walter. "The Pedestal and the Veil: Rethinking the Capitalism/Slavery Question." Journal of The Early Republic 24 (Summer 2004): 299-308.

*Kaye, Anthony E. "The Second Slavery: Modernity in the Nineteenth-Century South and the Atlantic World." Journal of Southern History 75 (August 2009): 627-50.

*Oakes, James. The Ruling Race: A History of American Slaveholders (1982). (SKIM for argument)

*Tadman, Michael. "The Persistent Myth of Paternalism: Historians and the Nature of the Master-Slave Relations in the American South." Sage Race Relations Abstracts 23 (February 1998): 7-23.

Week Thirteen (17 November): The Causes of Confederate Defeat (part one)

Faust, Drew Gilpin. Mothers of Invention: Women of the Slaveholding South in the American Civil War. New York: Vintage, 1996.

*Escott, Paul D. After Secession: Jefferson Davis and the Failure of Confederate Nationalism. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1978. (SKIM for argument)

Week Fourteen (24 November): The Causes of Confederate Defeat (part two)

Gallagher, Gary W. The Confederate War: How Popular Will, Nationalism, and Military Strategy Could Not Stave Off Defeat. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1997.

*Bensel, Richard. "Southern Leviathan: The Development of Central State Authority in the Confederate States of America." Studies in American Political Development 2 (1987): 68-136.

Historiographical essay on the readings for weeks ten and eleven due at the beginning of class.

Week Fifteen (1 December): The Reigning Synthesis of Reconstruction

Foner, Eric. Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution. New York: Harper & Row, 1988.

Week Sixteen (8 December): New Directions in the History of Reconstruction

*Edwards, Laura F. "Sexual Violence, Gender, Reconstruction, and the Extension of Patriarchy in Granville County, North Carolina." North Carolina Historical Review 68 (July 1991): 237-60.

Rosen, Hannah. Terror in the Heart of Freedom: Citizenship, Sexual Violence, and the Meaning of Race in the Postemancipation South. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009.

Historiographical essay on the readings for weeks fourteen and fifteen due at the beginning of class.