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**History 771 (Seminar in United States History to 1877)**  
**Inheritors of the Revolution: A History of the American People, 1790-1820**  
**Fall 2008**  
**Monday, 6:30-9:15pm • LAB 455**

The previous decades have witnessed an outpouring of studies demonstrating the centrality of the early national period to any understanding of American History. In the aftermath of the American Revolution, the citizens of the young nation wrestled with the meaning(s) of citizenship, the growing problem of economic inequality, the role of religion in public life, and the place of slavery in a democratic republic.

This course will provide an overview of recent scholarship that illuminates the profound economic, political, and social upheavals that transformed the United States in the decades following independence. Rather than structuring the course chronologically around a central political or economic narrative, this seminar is arranged thematically. Topics addressed include: the transition of independent artisans into wage laborers, the spread of commercial agriculture, changing understandings of political power and the concomitant expansion of the political arena, the rise of evangelical religion and reform movements, and slavery's spread into the American southwest.

Students seeking an overview of this period should consult one of the following synthetic works:

- Elkins, Stanley and Eric McKittrick. The Age of Federalism: The Early American Republic, 1788-1800. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
- Howe, Daniel Walker. What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Johnson, Paul E. The Early American Republic, 1789-1829. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Sellers, Charles. The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.
- Wilentz, Sean. The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2005.

**Required Readings: The following works are required for this course and are available at the University of Southern Mississippi bookstore.**

- Boydston, Jeanne. Home and Work: Housework, Wages, and the Ideology of Labor in the Early Republic. New York: Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Deyle, Steven. Carry Me Back: The Domestic Slave Trade in American Life. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Freeman, Joanne B. Affairs of Honor: National Politics in the New Republic. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2001.
- Hatch, Nathan O. The Democratization of American Christianity. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1989.
- Larson, John Lauritz. Internal Improvement: National Public Works and the Promise of Popular Government in the Early United States. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2002.
- Lyons, Carle A. Sex among the Rabble: An Intimate History of Gender and Power in the Age of Revolution, Philadelphia, 1730-1830. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2006.
- Mann, Bruce H. Republic of Debtors: Bankruptcy in the Age of American Independence. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003.

- Melish, Joanne Pope. Disowning Slavery: Gradual Emancipation and Race in New England. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2000.
- Peskin, Lawrence A. Manufacturing Revolution: The Intellectual Origins of Early American Industry. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.
- Rothman, Adam. Slave Country: American Expansion and the Origins of the Deep South. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2005.
- Ryan, Mary P. Cradle of the Middle Class: The Family in Oneida County, New York, 1790-1865. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981.
- Sievens, Mary Beth. Stray Wives: Marital Conflict in Early National New England. New York: NYU Press, 2005.
- Taylor, Alan. William Cooper's Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early American Republic. New York: Vintage, 1995.
- Tomlins, Christopher L. Law, Labor, and Ideology in the Early American Republic. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- Waldstreicher, David. In the Midst of Perpetual Fetes: The Making of American Nationalism, 1776-1820. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997.
- Wilentz, Sean. Chants Democratic: New York City and the Rise of the American Working Class, 1788-1850. New York: Oxford University Press, 1984.

**Grading:** There are three components to your grade:

Review Essays (Two)	10% each
Historiographical Essay	40%
Class Participation	40%

**Review Essays:** In addition to the required readings (marked with an asterisk), several supplemental works have been assigned. In our first meeting, these works will be assigned to reviewers who will write an essay that 1) offers a summary and critical review of the work and 2) relates the work to the week's required reading(s). The essay should be four pages in length and should be submitted to the class via e-mail the Friday before the seminar.

**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.**

**Historiographical Essay:** A historiographical essay on a topic of your choosing is due at the beginning of class on 1 December 2008. The essay should be approximately twenty pages in length and should discuss between twelve and fifteen monographs. Your topic and bibliography are due at the beginning of class on 15 September 2008. Students needing guidance on selecting a topic may consult the professor or read through the review essays collected in:

Larson, John Lauritz and Michael A. Morrison, ed. Whither the Early Republic: A Forum on the Future of the Field. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005.

**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.

**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](mailto:Suzanne.Herbert@usm.edu).

### **Course Outline**

#### **Week 1 (25 August 2008) – Politics and Power in the New Nation**

\*Freeman, Joanne B. Affairs of Honor: National Politics in the New Republic. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2001.

\*Taylor, Alan. William Cooper's Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early American Republic. New York: Vintage, 1995.

#### **Week 2 (1 September 2008) – Class Cancelled**

#### **Week 3 (8 September 2008) – Forging New Identities**

\*Waldstreicher, David. In the Midst of Perpetual Fetes: The Making of American Nationalism, 1776-1820. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997.

Appleby, Joyce. Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2000.

Sidbury, James. Becoming African in America: Race and Nation in the Early Black Atlantic. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

#### **Week 4 (15 September 2008) – Awakenings and Conversions: Religion in the Early Republic**

\*Hatch, Nathan O. The Democratization of American Christianity. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1989.

Dowd, Gregory Evans. A Spirited Resistance: The North American Indian Struggle for Unity, 1745-1815. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992.

Frey, Sylvia R. and Betty Wood. Come Shouting to Zion: African American Protestantism in the American South and British Caribbean to 1830. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1998.

Heyrman, Christine Leigh. Southern Cross: The Beginnings of the Bible Belt. New York: Knopf, 1997.

#### **Week 5 (22 September 2008) – Marriage and Family Life**

\*Sievens, Mary Beth. Stray Wives: Marital Conflict in Early National New England. New York: NYU Press, 2005.

\*Grossberg, Michael. Governing the Hearth: Law and Family in Nineteenth-Century America. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1985. (ON RESERVE; read pp. 1-30; 64-102; 234-287)

Jabour, Anya. Marriage in the Early Republic: Elizabeth and William Wirt and the Companionate Ideal. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

**Historiographical essay topic and bibliography due at the beginning of class.**

### **Week 6 (29 September 2008) – Race, Sex, and Power in the New Nation**

- \*Lyons, Carle A. Sex among the Rabble: An Intimate History of Gender and Power in the Age of Revolution, Philadelphia, 1730-1830. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2006.
- Brown, Richard D. The Hanging of Ephraim Wheeler: A Story of Rape, Incest, and Justice in Early America. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003.
- Rothman, Joshua D. Notorious in the Neighborhood: Sex and Families across the Color Line in Virginia, 1787-1861. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2007.

### **Week 7 (6 October 2008) – Capitalism and Democracy**

- \*Appleby, Joyce. Capitalism and a New Social Order: The Republican Vision of the 1790s. New York: NYU Press, 1984. (ON RESERVE)
- \*Larson, John Lauritz. Internal Improvement: National Public Works and the Promise of Popular Government in the Early United States. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2002.
- McCoy, Drew R. The Elusive Republic: Political Economy in Jeffersonian America. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1980.

### **Week 8 (13 October 2008) – Speculators**

- \*Mann, Bruce H. Republic of Debtors: Bankruptcy in the Age of American Independence. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003.
- \*Ditz, Tony L. “Shipwrecked; or, Masculinity Imperiled: Mercantile Representations of Failure and the Gendered Self in Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia.” Journal of American History 81 (June 1994): 51-80.
- Kamensky, Jane. The Exchange Artist: A Tale of High-Flying Speculation and America’s First Banking Collapse. New York: Viking, 2007.

### **Week 9 (20 October 2008) – The First Industrial Revolution**

- \*Peskin, Lawrence A. Manufacturing Revolution: The Intellectual Origins of Early American Industry. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.
- \*Horwitz, Morton J. “The Transformation in the Conception of Property in American Law, 1780-1860.” University of Chicago Law Review 40 (1973): 248-90.
- \*Prude, Jonathan. “Town-Factory Conflicts in Antebellum Rural Massachusetts” in The Countryside in the Age of Capitalist Transformation: Essays in the Social History of North America, ed. Stephen Hahn and Jonathan Prude, 71-102. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1985.

### **Week 10 (27 October 2008) – Transformations in Slavery (The Northern and Middle Atlantic States)**

- \*Melish, Joanne Pope. Disowning Slavery: Gradual Emancipation and Race in New England. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2000.
- Gellman, David N. Emancipating New York: The Politics of Slavery and Freedom. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2006.
- Whitman, T. Stephen. The Price of Freedom: Slavery and Manumission in Baltimore and Early National Maryland. New Brunswick, N.J.: Routledge, 1999.
- Wolf, Eva Sheppard. Race and Liberty in the New Nation. Emancipation in Virginia from the Revolution to Nat Turner’s Rebellion. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2006.

### **Week 11 (3 November 2008) – Becoming Southern: Creating the Old South**

- \*Rothman, Adam. Slave Country: American Expansion and the Origins of the Deep South. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2005.

Glover, Lorri. Southern Sons: Becoming Men in the New Nation. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007.

#### **Week 12 (10 November 2008) – The Second Middle Passage**

- \*Deyle, Steven. Carry Me Back: The Domestic Slave Trade in American Life. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Johnson, Walter. Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999.

#### **Week 13 (17 November 2008) – Inventing Free Labor**

- \*Steinfeld, Robert J. The Invention of Free Labor: The Employment Relations in English and American Law and Culture, 1350-1870. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1991. (ON RESERVE; read pp. 3-54; 122-172)
- \*Tomlins, Christopher L. Law, Labor, and Ideology in the Early American Republic. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- \*Glickstein, Jonathan A. "Pressures from Below: Pauperism, Chattel Slavery, and the Ideological Construction of Free Market Labor Incentives in Antebellum America." Radical History Review 69 (Fall 1997) : 114-58.

#### **Week 14 (24 November 2008) – Creating the Working Class: Artisans into Workers**

- \*Wilentz, Sean. Chants Democratic: New York City and the Rise of the American Working Class, 1788-1850. New York: Oxford University Press, 1984.
- \* Rockman, Seth. "Class and the History of Working People in the Early Republic." Journal of the Early Republic 25 (Winter 2005): 527-535.
- Roediger, David R. The Wages of Whiteness: Race and the Making of the American Working Class. New York: Verso, 1991.

#### **Week 15 (1 December 2008) – Beyond the Artisan Synthesis: Common Laborers and Working Women**

- \*Boydston, Jeanne. Home and Work: Housework, Wages, and the Ideology of Labor in the Early Republic. New York: Oxford University Press, 1990.
- \*Dublin, Thomas. "Women and Outwork in a Nineteenth-Century New England Town: Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, 1830-1850," in The Countryside in the Age of Capitalist Transformation: Essays in the Social History of North America, ed. Stephen Hahn and Jonathan Prude, 51-70. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1985.
- \*Rockman, Seth. "Women's Labor, Gender Ideology, and Working-Class Households in Early Republic Baltimore." Pennsylvania History 66 (Supplemental Issue, 1999): 174-200.
- \*Way, Peter. "Evil Humors and Ardent Spirits: The Rough Culture of Canal Construction Laborers." Journal of American History 79 (1993): 1397-1428.

#### **Week 16 (Date and Time to be Determined) – A Quest for Order: Religion, Reform, and the Middle Class**

- \*Ryan, Mary P. Cradle of the Middle Class: The Family in Oneida County, New York, 1790-1865. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981.
- Johnson, Paul E. A Shopkeeper's Millennium: Society and Revivals in Rochester, New York, 1815-1837. New York: Hill and Wang, 1978.
- Rothman, David J. The Discovery of the Asylum: Social Order and Disorder in the New Republic. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1971.