

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
Professor E. Foner  
Spring 2010

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
620 Fayerweather  
Office Hours: Tues.: 2-4 pm

History W3431y

THE UNITED STATES IN THE ERA OF SLAVERY AND  
JACKSONIAN DEMOCRACY, 1815-1850

Required Readings: The readings below are required. The list has been given to Book Culture, 536 West 112th Street. All readings are also available in the reserve reading room in Butler Library

Paper: Each student will write a paper of ten to twelve pages, comparing two works of history dealing with the same general subject. The paper is due in section during Week 14 of classes. A list of suggested books is available on the course website.

Sections: In addition to the lectures, undergraduate students are required to attend a weekly discussion section, directed by a graduate teaching assistant. Section hours and assignments will be arranged during the second week of classes. Failure to attend the sections regularly will have an adverse impact on your grade!

Graduate students are welcome to register for R credit, but not for E credit.

NB: The use of laptops in this class is not permitted, except with the permission of the instructor.

Part I: The Age of Jackson, 1815-1840

Week 1: (January 20): Introduction

Week 2: (January 25, 27): The Legacy of the American Revolution

Drew McCoy, The Elusive Republic, chs. 1-7  
Sean Wilentz and Jonathan Earle, Major Problems of the Early Republic,  
pp. 30-34, 40-41, 64-67, 69-70

Week 3: (February 1, 3): The Market Revolution and the Rise of the West

John M. Faragher, Sugar Creek, chs. 9-20  
Wilentz and Earle, Major Problems, pp. 175-78

Week 4: (February 8, 10): Nation, Section, and Party

Sean Wilentz, The Rise of American Democracy: Abridged College Edition, chs. 6-10  
Wilentz and Earle, Major Problems, pp. 285-87, 289-91

Week 5: (February 15, 17): The Second Party System

Wilentz, Rise of American Democracy, chs. 11-16  
Wilentz and Earle, Major Problems, pp. 320-24, 338-40

Week 6: (February 22, 24): Political and Social Issues in the Age of Jackson

Anthony F. C. Wallace, The Long, Bitter Trail  
Wilentz and Earle, Major Problems, pp. 324-30

Week 7: ( March 1, 3): The Labor Question

Christine Stansell, City of Women, chs 1, 3-8  
Wilentz and Earle, Major Problems, pp. 184-90, 370-71

Week 8: Midterm Examination: Wednesday, March 10

No ta sections or readings this week, but class meets on March 8

Part II: Slavery, the Old South, and the Roots of Revolution

Week 9: (March 22, 24): Slavery, an Introduction

Ira Berlin, Generations of Captivity, chs. 1-4  
Wilentz and Earle, Major Problems, pp. 212-17, 223-24

Week 10: (March 29, 31): The Slave System

Charles Joyner, Down by the Riverside, chs. 1-5  
Wilentz and Earle, Major Problems, pp. 217-19, 222-24

Week 11: (April 5, 7): Master and Slave

Walter Johnson, Soul By Soul, Intro, chs. 1-2, 4-6  
Wilentz and Earle, Major Problems, pp. 211-12, 226-29, 402-09

Week 12: (April 12, 14): Religion and Reform

Paul Johnson, A Shopkeepers' Millennium  
Wilentz and Earle, Major Problems, pp. 223, 357-58, 365-66

Week 13: (April 19, 21): The Crusade Against Slavery

James B. Stewart, Holy Warriors, chs. 1-6, afterword  
Wilentz and Earle, Major Problems, pp. 388-94, 396-98, 413-16

Week 14: (April 26, 28): Slavery, Expansion, and Politics

David Potter, The Impending Crisis, chs. 1-5  
Wilentz and Earle, Major Problems, pp. 359-62, 453-56, 470-72

Week 15: (May 3): Crisis and Compromise