**Syllabus**

**History 70603-725**

**Seminar in U.S. History: Readings in Early American History, Beginnings to 1877**

**Fall 2016**

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**Professor:** Dr. Gregg Cantrell

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**Office** **Hours:** Mondays, 10:30-12:30, Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30, and by appointment. I will be here many other hours and will be happy to meet with you any time. However, it's always a good idea to call first and make sure I'm in.

**Statement of Purpose:** The purpose of this is course is to introduce students to a broad range of the scholarly literature on American history from pre-Columbian times through Reconstruction. Readings have been chosen because of their importance in shaping a major historiographical school of thought on a given subject, or they stand as a representative work of a major school, or they are otherwise important for methodological reasons.

**Grading:** The semester grade will be determined as follows:

*Book notes (50%*): Each week at the beginning of class, you will turn in your notes on the week’s book. The notes will be structured on a chapter-by-chapter basis, beginning with one formal paragraph stating the author’s thesis and the book’s place in the historiography. Further instructions will be given at the first class meeting.

*Regular class attendance and participation (50%)*: The high percentage reflects how important it is that you are in class, with the reading done, and ready to participate every week. During discussions, please keep in mind that the goal is balanced participation. If you find yourself hogging the floor, please yield it; if you find yourself being a wallflower, please speak up. At the midpoint of the semester I will give each student an informal progress report on how I think she or he is doing.

**Week 1: Aug. 22 Course Introduction and Orientation.**

To be read in advance of first class meeting:

Grob, et al., “Introduction to U.S. Historiography,” in *Interpretations in American History* (8th ed.), 2009.

Frederick Jackson Turner, “The Significance of the Frontier in American History.”

**Week 2, Aug. 29:** **Indians, the Environment, and the Era of Exploration and Colonization**

William Cronon, *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England* (1983)

Alfred W. Crosby, “Virgin Soil Epidemics as a Factor in the Aboriginal Depopulation in America,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1976.

Sarah T. Phillips, “Environmental History,” *American History Now*, 2011.

**[Sept. 5--no class--Labor Day holiday]**

**Week 3, Sept. 12:** **Puritans and the Early Colonial Period**

Kenneth A. Lockridge, *A New England Town: The First Hundred Years: Dedham, Massachusetts, 1636-1737* (1970)

Perry Miller and Thomas H. Johnson, excerpt from *The Puritans* (1938) in Grob, et al., *Interpretations in American History* (8th ed.), 2009.

John M. Murrin, Review of Lockridge, Greven, et al., *Reviews in American History*, 1972.

Rhys Isaac, Review of Lockridge, Greven, et al, *American Historical Review*, 1971.

Darrett B. Rutman, “Assessing the Little Communities of Early America,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1986.

Edmund S. Morgan, “Our Town,” *New York Review of Books*, 1985.

**Week 4, Sept 19: The Colonial South, Race, and Slavery**

Edmund S. Morgan, *American Slavery, American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia*, 1975*.*

Rhys Isaac, “Evangelical Revolt: The Nature of the Baptists' Challenge to the Traditional Order in Virginia, 1765 to 1775,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1974.

T. H. Breen, review of Rhys Isaac’s *The Transformation of Virginia*, in *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1983.

**Week 5, Sept. 26:** **Origins of the American Revolution**

Bernard Bailyn, *Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, 1967.

Robert E. Shalhope, “Toward a Republican Synthesis: The Emergence of an Understanding of Republicanism in American Historiography, *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1972.

Daniel T. Rogers, “Republicanism: The Career of a Concept,” *Journal of American History*, 1992.

T. H. Breen, “Baubles of Britain,” *Past and Present*, 1988.

**Week 6, Oct. 3:** **The Revolution and its Aftermath**

Gordon S. Wood, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*, 1993.

Lance Banning, “ Jeffersonian Ideology Revisited: Liberal and Classical Ideas in the New American Republic,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 1986.

Woody Holton, “American Revolution and Early Republic,” *American History Now*, 2011.

**[Oct. 10--no class--Fall Break]**

**Week 7, Oct. 17:****Women and Gender in the Early Republic**

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife’s Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary*, 1785-1812 (1990)

Barbara Welter, “The Cult of True Womanhood,” *American Quarterly*, 1966.

Joan W. Scott, “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis,” *American Historical Review*, 1986.

Nancy Cott, et al., “Considering the State of U.S. Women’s History,” *Journal of Women’s History*, 2003.

Rebecca Edwards, “Women’s and Gender History,” *American History Now*, 2011.

**Week 8, Oct. 24: Jacksonian America**

Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*, 2007.

Daniel Feller, “The Market Revolution Ate My Homework,” *Reviews in American History*, 1997.

Seth Rockman, “Jacksonian America,” in *American History Now*, 2011.

**Week 9, Oct. 31:** **Race, Class, and Gender in the Antebellum South**

Suzanne Lebsock, *The Free Women of Petersburg: Status and Culture in a Southern Town, 1784-1860*, 1985.

Walter Johnson, “On Agency,” *Journal of Social History*, 2003.

**Week 10, Nov. 7:**  **The Peculiar Institution**

Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market*, 1999.

Peter Kolchin, "American Historians and Antebellum Southern Slavery, 1959–1984," in *A Master's Due: Essays in Honor of David Herbert Donald,* ed. William J. Cooper, Jr., Michael F. Holt, and John McCardell, 1985.

Lawrence Glickman, “The Cultural Turn,” *American History Now*, 2011.

**Week 11, Nov. 14:** **Politics, Ideology, and the Coming of the Civil War**

Eric Foner, *Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: The Ideology of the Republican Party before the Civil War* (1970)

Adam Rothman, *“Slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction,” American History Now*, 2011.

Dan Rood, “Beckert Is Liverpool, Baptist Is New Orleans: Geography Returns to the History of Capitalism,” *Journal of the Early Republic*, 2016.

**Week 12, Nov. 21:** **Race, Ethnicity, and Labor**

David R. Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness: Race and the Making of the American Working Class* (1991).

Barbara J. Fields, “Ideology and Race in American History,” in *Region, Race, and Reconstruction: Essays in Honor of C. Vann Woodward*, 1982,

Peter Kolchin, “Whiteness Studies: The New History of Race in America,” *Journal of American History*, 2002.

Mae M. Ngai, “Immigration and Ethnic History*, American History Now*, 2011.

**Week 13, Nov. 28:**  **Reconstruction**

Laura F. Edwards, *Gendered Strife and Confusion: the Political Culture of Reconstruction*, 1997.

Eric Foner, “Reconstruction Revisited,” *Reviews in American History*, 1982.

Daniel Wickberg, “Heterosexual White Male: Some Recent Inversions in American Cultural History*,*” *Journal of American History*, 2005.

**Week 14: Dec. 5: The Southwestern Borderlands**

Pekka Hämäläinen, *The Comanche Empire*, 2008.

Patricia Nelson Limerick, “Closing the Frontier and Opening Western History” (excerpt from *The Legacy of Conquest*, 1987)

Ned Blackhawk, “American Indians and the Study of U.S. History,” *American History Now*, 2011.

Pekka Hämäläinen and Samuel Truett, “On Borderlands,” *Journal of American History*, 2011.