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Fall, 2018

211 Keene-Flint Hall
Office hours: Tues. 10:30-
11:30; Thurs. 7:30-9:30;
and by appointment

AMH 6199: Readings in Nineteenth-Century U.S. History

Course Requirements:

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the scholarly literature on nineteenth-century U.S. history. There are five basic requirements for the course. First, students will be expected to read common assignments and participate in every weekly discussion. Second, each student will be responsible for summarizing the historiographical debates revolving around one of our weekly topics and leading the discussion for that week. Third, each student will prepare three brief book reviews (three to four pages in length) during the course of the semester. In our first meeting, we will discuss the format and make the assignments. Fourth, each student will prepare a historiographical essay (ten pages in length) on a topic in nineteenth-century U.S. history. Students may choose topics that relate to their thesis or dissertation research, and the essay will be due on Monday, December 10, 2018 (in hard copy). And fifth, each student will be required to prepare a syllabus for an undergraduate course on nineteenth-century U.S. history, also due on December 10, 2018—see the final page of this syllabus for details. Thirty percent of your grade will be based on class participation; 20 percent will be based on your contribution as discussion leader; 20 percent will be based on the book reviews; 20 percent will be based on the historiographical essay; and 10 percent of your grade will be based on the syllabus that you prepare.

Topics and Readings Assignments:

1. August 28 Introduction and Assignments

 No Reading Assignment

2. September 4 Political and Legal Culture in the New Republic

 Common Reading:

 Laura Edwards, *The People and Their Peace* (2009)

 Review Titles:

 John L. Brooke, *Columbia Rising* (2013)

 Paul A. Gilje, *The Road to Mobocracy* (1987)

3. September 11 Class and Poverty in the Early Nineteenth-Century City

Common Reading:

Seth Rockman, *Scraping By* (2008)

Review Titles:

Christine Stansell, *City of Women* (1987)

Patricia Cline Cohen, *The Murder of Helen Jewett* (1999)

Richard Stott, *Workers in the Metropolis* (1990)

Elizabeth Blackmar, *Manhattan for Rent* (1991)

4. September 18 Slavery, Capitalism, and the Old South

Common Reading:

Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul* (2001)

Review Titles:

Bertram Wyatt-Brown, *Southern Honor* (1982)

Robert William Fogel, *Without Consent or Contract* (1989)

Edward E. Baptist, *The Half Has Never Been Told* (2014)

Thavolia Glymph, *Out of the House of Bondage* (2008)

5. September 25 The Crisis of the 1850s

Common Reading:

Eric Foner, *Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men* (1970)

Review Titles:

William E. Gienapp, *The Origins of the Republican Party* (1987)

Elizabeth Varon, *We Mean to be Counted* (1998)

6. October 2 The Civil War

Common Reading:

Drew Faust, *Republic of Suffering* (2009)

Review Titles:

Stephanie McCurry, *Confederate Reckoning* (2010)

Gary Gallagher, *The Union War* (2011)

Kathryn Meier, *Nature's Civil War* (2015)

7. October 9 Urban Culture in the Nineteenth Century

Common Reading:

Mary Ryan, *Civic Wars* (1998)

Review Titles:

Roger Lane, *Violent Death in the City* (1999)

Carl Smith, *Urban Disorder and the Shape of Belief* (1995)

Stuart Blumin, *The Emergence of the Middle Class* (1989)

8. October 16 Racial and Ethnic Identify in American Society

Common Reading:

David Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness* (1991)

Review Titles:

Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Whiteness of a Different Color* (1999)

Thomas A. Guglielmo, *White on Arrival* (2004)

9. October 23 Reconstruction

Common Reading:

Hannah Rosen, *Terror in the Heart of Freedom* (2009)

Review Titles:

Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet* (2005)

Jim Downs, *Sick From Freedom* (2012)

Tera W. Hunter, *To 'Joy My Freedom* (1997)

Henry Kamerling, *Capital and Convict* (2017)

Heather Cox Richardson, *West from Appomattox* (2007)

10. October 30 Environmental History, Western History, and the New Regionalism

Common Reading:

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis* (1991)

Review Title:

Elliott West, *The Contested Plains* (1998)

11. November 6 Protest and Modernity in the New South

Common Reading:

Charles Postel, *The Populist Vision* (2007)

Review Title:

Lawrence Goodwyn, *Democratic Promise* (1976)

12. November 13 Lynching and Racial Violence

Common Reading:

W. Fitzhugh Brundage, *Lynching in the New South* (1993)

Review Titles:

Amy Kate Bailey and Steward E. Tolnay, *Lynched* (2015)

Amy Louise Wood, *Lynching and Spectacle* (2009)

Michael J. Pfeifer, *Rough Justice* (2006)

Crystal N. Feimster, *Southern Horrors* (2011)

13. November 20 Race and Memory in the Late Nineteenth Century

Common Reading:

David Blight, *Race and Reunion* (2002)

14. November 27 Class, Ethnicity, and Space in the Industrial City

Common Reading:

Olivier Zunz, *The Changing Face of Inequality* (2000)

15. December 4 The Nineteenth-Century Paradigm

No Reading Assignment

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Syllabus assignment

Due: December 10, 2018

Design a syllabus for an upper-division undergraduate course on nineteenth-century America. I will be particularly interested in seeing how you conceptualize the course. What themes would you emphasize? What would be the principal units or lecture topics? What books (or articles) would you assign? You can assign primary sources, secondary sources, or some combination, though you should not rely on the topics, periodization, or texts that I have adopted in AMH 6199.