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:


   Review Titles:


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

Common Reading:

Review Titles:
Christine Stansell, *City of Women* (1987)

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

Common Reading:

Review Titles:

5. September 25 The Crisis of the 1850s

Common Reading:

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

6. October 2 The Civil War
Common Reading:


Review Titles:

Stephanie McCurry, *Confederate Reckoning* (2010)

Gary Gallagher, *The Union War* (2011)


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:


Review Titles:


9. October 23  Reconstruction

Common Reading:


Review Titles:


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

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

   Common Reading:


   Review Title:


11. November 6  Protest and Modernity in the New South

   Common Reading:


   Review Title:

   Lawrence Goodwyn, *Democratic Promise* (1976)

12. November 13  Lynching and Racial Violence

   Common Reading:


   Review Titles:


   Crystal N. Feimster, *Southern Horrors* (2011)
13. November 20  Race and Memory in the Late Nineteenth Century

    Common Reading:


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

    Common Reading:


15. December 4  The Nineteenth-Century Paradigm

    No Reading Assignment

AMH 6199
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.