HIST 202, United States History
Winter 2015
Class Hours: MWF 11:00-11:50

Graduate Teaching Fellows (GTFs):
Quinn Akina
John Bedan
Christopher Smith

Professor: Jeff Ostler
346-1265
jostler@uoregon.edu
385 McKenzie

Office Hours:
TR, 12:00-1:00
F, 2:30-3:30
and by appointment

follow on twitter @HIST202

ABOUT THE COURSE:

This course is the second term of a three-term sequence in U.S. history. This term surveys U.S. history from the end of the War of 1812 to the eve of World War I (1914). The main theme of our course is the meanings of liberty.

At its inception, as articulated in the Declaration of Independence and fought for in the colonists’ struggle for independence from Great Britain, the United States imagined itself to be a nation unique for its commitment to liberty. Yet, liberty meant many different things to different people. For slaveowners, for example, it meant the freedom to own slaves, while slaves themselves saw their condition as a violation of their liberty. Or, to take another example, Americans’ pursuit of liberty depended upon geographical expansion (empire), which in turn deprived Native Americans of their liberty to pursue their lives in their own lands. Throughout the period covered by this course, people advanced different ideas about liberty and fought for their conception of liberty.

What did liberty mean for different groups of people that lived in the United States or were incorporated into it? How did people struggle over the meaning of liberty and with what outcomes? These are the central questions of our course.

REQUIRED READINGS (available for purchase at the Duck Store and on reserve, except the course packet):

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History*, 3rd Seagull edition (noted under the schedule as “textbook”)


Jacqueline Jones Royster, ed., *Southern Horrors and Other Writings: The Anti-Lynching Campaign of Ida B. Wells, 1892-1900*

A course packet (abbreviated under the schedule as “CP”)
REQUIREMENTS:

1. Midterm exam (Friday, February 6). Worth 20%
2. Comprehensive final exam (Tues., March 17, 10:15-12:15). Worth 30%.
   Please note: No early or makeup exams will be given without a documented
   medical or university reason.
3. Paper (5-6 pages) on the readings for the course (due in class, Monday March 2).
   Worth 30%
   Note: No late papers will be accepted.
4. Attendance and participation in discussion sections. Worth 20%
   Note: Section leaders will penalize students who fail to meet a minimum
   attendance requirement one full grade for the entire course
5. Students must complete all assignments in order to pass the course.

CLASS RULES:

1. Electronic devices may be used, but students using an electronic device in any session
   must post at least one tweet about the lecture for that session under #HIST202.
2. Please do not leave class before the end of the session. This is a matter of common
   courtesy to the other students and to the professor.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Studying history is valuable for its own sake, as it broadens our insight into the human
experience. This history course also provides an opportunity for students to develop useful skills:
1. Reading and analyzing sources. The readings for this course, with the exception of the
textbook, are all primary sources. Close reading and study of these sources will improve students’
ability to interpret a variety of documents.
2. Writing about history. Unlike some general education courses in the social sciences,
this course requires quite a bit of writing. Students will improve their skills of organization,
clarity of expression, and argumentation.

SCHEDULE:

Week 1
1/5 Introduction: United States in 1815
1/7 Market revolution
1/9 Jacksonian democracy

READINGS: Begin *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (in *Classic Slave Narratives*)
Textbook, pp. 310-364
Week 2
1/12 Jacksonian democracy–continued
1/14 Indian removal
1/16 Reform movements
   READINGS: Continue Incidents in the Life of a Slave
            CP 1, 2, 3, 4
            Textbook, pp. 364-394, 432-443

Week 3
1/19 No class–Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday
1/21 Slavery
1/23 Abolitionism
   READINGS: Continue/finish Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
            Textbook, pp. 394-431, 443-455
            CP 5, 6

Week 4
1/26 Women and politics
1/28 Manifest destiny and U.S. war against Mexico
1/30 Sectional crisis, 1850-1856
   READINGS: Continue/finish Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
            CP 7, 8, 9
            Textbook, pp. 455-503

Week 5
2/2 Coming of the Civil War, 1856-1861
2/4 Lincoln, slaves, and emancipation
2/6 Midterm exam
   READINGS: CP 10, 11, 12
            Textbook, pp. 503-553

Week 6
2/9 Possibilities of Reconstruction
2/11 Failure of Reconstruction
2/13 Industrial capitalism
   READINGS: Southern Horrors, pp. 1-45
            CP 13, 14, 15
            Textbook, pp. 554-602
Week 7
2/16  Workers and farmers in the Gilded Age
2/18  Populism
2/20  Jim Crow
      READINGS: *Southern Horrors*, pp. 50-72, 80-98
              CP 16, 17, 18
              Textbook, pp. 616-664

Week 8
2/23  European immigration
2/25  Asian immigration
2/27  Mexican Americans and Mexican immigration
      READINGS: *Southern Horrors*, pp. 106-117, 131-148
              CP 19, 20

Week 9
3/2   American Indian nations and settler colonialism
      PAPER DUE
3/4   American Indian nations and settler colonialism–continued
3/6   Overseas imperialism
      READINGS: Textbook, pp. 602-616, 664-680
              CP, 21, 22, 23

Week 10
3/9   Currents of reform and innovation in the “Progressive Era”
3/11  National issues in the “Progressive Era”
3/13  World War and the prospects for freedom
      READINGS: Textbook, pp. 681-724, 733-744

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 10:15-12:15