

History 5A
MWF 11:30-12:20 Trotter 203
Fall 2013

Bruce Dorsey
Trotter 214 x8095
Office Hours: W. 1:30-3:30;
Th. 11-12; & by appt.

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES TO 1877

This course is designed to introduce students to important themes in the history of the United States between the earliest history of European colonization in North America and the U.S. Civil War and Reconstruction. An emphasis of the course will be on the cultural history of the colonial era, the American Revolution, and the first century of the new republic.

The following comprise the principal objectives of this course:

- Expose students to the art of critical reading and historical analysis of primary source documents.
- Allow students to develop their own interpretative frameworks for understanding the significance of various developments in the United States' first century.
- Provide students with a strong conceptual background to interpret conflict and change in American culture both in the past and in the present.
- Exposing students to the geography and genealogy of cultural change in America

REQUIRED READINGS:

The following books are available to purchase at the College Bookstore:

Bruce Dorsey and Woody Register, eds., *Crosscurrents in American Culture*.
Theda Perdue and Michael Green, eds., *The Cherokee Removal*.

Moodle:

The vast majority of the required readings for this course, as well as supplemental readings for the writing assignments, are available on the course's Moodle site.

Students are responsible for bringing copies of *Crosscurrents in American Culture* to every class meeting, since class discussions will focus on the interpretation and discussion of the primary-source documents in that reader.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Class participation & Attendance: Students are required to attend all class meetings, complete all assigned readings, and be prepared to discuss the readings each week. Students are expected to contribute actively to the collective learning experience of the course.

The following is the History Department policy on attendance & communication:

"Students are required to attend all classes. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade for the course. If you are having a medical or personal emergency, please contact the Dean's Office as well as the instructor of the course. It is your responsibility to inform your instructor as soon as possible. It is essential that you check your email on a regular basis since History professors will contact you via email. We also expect you to use email to contact History professors."

Writing Assignments:

Papers: Two papers (approximately 5-6 double-spaced pages [2,000 words maximum]) will be written throughout the semester. The expectations and requirements for the papers, as well as the choice of topics and supplemental readings, are described under Paper Assignments on Moodle.

Reflection Essays: Several short essays (1-2 pages) will be written on various “problems to consider” in *Crosscurrents in American Culture*. Thoughtful reflection and analysis are expected for these brief writing assignments. See Reflection Essays on Moodle.

Final Examination: A comprehensive final examination covering the material for the entire semester will be given on the scheduled exam date.

Evaluation/Grading:

Class participation:	10%
Papers:	50%
Reflection Essays	20%
Final Examination	20%

NOTE. Students must complete all writing assignments (including the Final Exam & all Reflection Essays) to pass this course.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1:

Sept. 2 – INTRODUCTION

Sept. 4 – COLONIAL DREAMS: IMAGININGS OF EXPLORATION, CONQUEST & RELOCATION

Readings:

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 1-17.

Karen Kupperman, *Indians and English* (2000), Introduction & ch. 1.

Sept. 6 – SEEING NEW PEOPLES: VISUAL IMAGES OF COLONIZATION

Readings:

Alan Taylor, *American Colonies* (2001), ch. 1-3.

Patricia Seed, *Ceremonies of Possession in Europe's Conquest of the New World, 1492-1640* (1995), 1-40, 69-99.

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 17-35.

Kupperman, *Indians and English*, ch. 2.

WEEK 2:

Sept. 9 – COSMOLOGY: CREATION STORIES AND LEGENDS OF GOOD AND EVIL IN MULTIPLE CULTURES

Readings:

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 35-40.

Kupperman, *Indians and English*, ch. 4.

Sept. 11 – NEW WORLDS AND OLD WORLDS: CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS IN THE AMERICAS

Readings:

James Merrell, “The Indians’ New World,” *William and Mary Quarterly* (1984), 537-65.

Kathleen M. Brown, *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches & Anxious Patriarchs* (1996), pp. 42-74.

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 41-54. [RE: p. 50]

Sept. 13 – COVENANTS, JEREMIADS, & WHITE INDIANS: PURITAN CULTURE IN NEW ENGLAND

Readings:

Alan Taylor, *American Colonies* (2001), ch. 6, 8.
 Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 54-71.

WEEK 3:

Sept. 16 – ORIGINS OF SLAVERY IN NORTH AMERICA

Readings:

Betty Wood, *Origins of American Slavery* (1997), ch. 2-4.
 Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 72-85.

Sept. 18 – MIDDLE PASSAGE: TALES OF THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

Readings:

Stephanie E. Smallwood, *Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to American Diaspora* (2007), ch. 2 & 7.
 Michael A. Gomez, *Exchanging Our Country Marks* (1998), 154-85.
 Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 86-96.

Sept. 20 – PENNSYLVANIA, THE MIDDLE COLONIES, & SLAVERY

Readings:

David Waldstreicher, *Runaway America: Benjamin Franklin, Slavery, and the American Revolution* (2004), ix-xv; 3-26.
 Ned C. Landsman, *Crossroads of Empire: The Middle Colonies in British North America* (2010), ch. 3, 5.

WEEK 4:

Sept. 23 – COCK FIGHTS, HORSE RACES, & REVIVALS: COLONIAL AMUSEMENTS & THE GREAT AWAKENING

Readings:

Alan Taylor, *American Colonies* (2001), ch. 15.
 Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 96-107.

Sept. 25 – EMPIRE AND REBELLION IN THE BRITISH COLONIES

Readings:

Edward Countryman, *The American Revolution* (1985), ch. 3-4.

Sept. 27 – **FIRST PAPER DUE**

WEEK 5:

Sept. 30 – THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Readings:

Alfred F. Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party* (1999), vii-xvii; 33-57; 85-117; 143-65.
 Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 108-22.

Oct. 2 – MEMORY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION & CONTEMPORARY POLITICS

Readings:

Slate (online magazine), "The History of the Tea Party in Four Minutes."
 Dick Armey and Matt Kibbe, *Give Us Liberty: A Tea Party Manifesto* (2010), 22-36.
 Jill Lepore, *The Whites of Their Eyes: The Tea Party's Revolution and the Battle over American History* (2010), Excerpts (14-24; 24-36; 43-47; 60-69; 94-97; 118-25).

Oct. 4 – LIBERTY'S KEY: COMPETING VISIONS OF FREEDOM IN THE AGE OF REVOLUTION

Readings:

Gary B. Nash, *Red, White & Black*, 4th ed. (2000), ch. 11.
 Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 122-31. [RE: p. 129]

WEEK 6:

Oct. 7 – CONSTITUTION AND THE RACIAL ORIGINS OF THE NEW NATION

Readings:

Edmund S. Morgan, "Slavery and Freedom: The American Paradox," *Journal of American History* (1972), 5-29.

Thurgood Marshall, "Race and the Constitution," *Social Policy* (1987), 29-31.

François Furstenberg, *In the Name of the Father: Washington's Legacy, Slavery, and the Making of a Nation* (2006), 188-206.

Oct. 9 – SIGNS AND LANGUAGES OF A NEW NATIONALISM

Readings:

David Waldstreicher, "Rites of Rebellion, Rites of Assent," *Journal of American History* (1995), 37-61.

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 131-40.

Oct. 11 – A MARKET REVOLUTION: CREATING CONSUMER DESIRE & DEBATES OVER MANUFACTURING

Readings:

Paul E. Johnson, *The Early American Republic* (2007), 3-53

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 141-50.

FALL BREAK: OCTOBER 14 THRU 18

WEEK 7:

Oct. 21 – INDUSTRIALIZATION & THE TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY IN THE NORTH

Readings:

Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848* (2007), 1-7; 525-69.

Karen Halttunen, *Confidence Men and Painted Women* (1982), ch. 1, 3.

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 151-70.

Oct. 23 – NO CLASS: JAMES A. FIELD LECTURE IN U.S. HISTORY: ERIC FONER, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, "THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RECONSTRUCTION IN AMERICAN HISTORY" 4:30PM. CINEMA LPAC

Readings:

Eric Foner, *Forever Free: The Story of Emancipation and Reconstruction* (2005), 76-100, 107-49, 159-80.

Oct. 25 – SLAVERY IN THE SOUTH : THE ECONOMICS OF SLAVERY

Readings:

Bruce Levine, *Half-Slave, Half-Free*, ch. 1 & 4.

Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (1999), ch. 1, 3.

WEEK 8:

Oct. 28 – SLAVERY IN THE SOUTH : AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE & SLAVE RESISTANCE

Readings:

Stephanie Camp, *Closer to Freedom: Enslaved Women and Everyday Resistance in the Plantation South* (2004), 60-116.

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 171-85. [RE: p. 179]

Oct. 30 – SLAVERY IN THE SOUTH : SLAVE RESISTANCE (continued)

Video in class: *Nat Turner, A Troublesome Property*

Readings:

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 185-99.

The Confessions of Nat Turner ["as fully and voluntarily made to T. R. Gray"] (1832).

Nov. 1 – DISCUSSION: SLAVERY

WEEK 9:

Nov. 4 – REFORMING AMERICA: RELIGIOUS REVIVALISM & TEMPERANCE TALES

Readings:

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 200-22.

Nov. 6 – REFORMING AMERICA: ABOLITIONISM & NATIVISM

Readings:

John Stauffer, *The Black Hearts of Men: Radical Abolitionists and the Transformation of Race* (2001), 1-44.

Bruce Dorsey, *Reforming Men and Women* (2002), ch. 5.

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 223-31.

Nov. 8 – INDIAN REMOVAL & "CIVILIZATION"

Readings:

Perdue and Green, *Cherokee Removal*, 1-91.

WEEK 10:

Nov. 11 – INDIAN REMOVAL & "CIVILIZATION" (continued)

Readings:

Perdue and Green, *Cherokee Removal*, 92-178.

Nov. 13 – NATURE'S VISTAS & VISAGES: CULTURAL MEANINGS OF EXPANSIONISM & THE WESTERN FRONTIER

Readings:

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 232-41.

Davy Crockett Almanacks (1835-1841), draft, 2nd ed., *Crosscurrents in American Culture*.

Susan Lee Johnson, *Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush* (2000), ch. 3.

Nov. 15 – "MANIFEST DESTINY": EXPANSIONISM & CONQUEST

Readings:

Reginald Horsman, *Race and Manifest Destiny* (1981), ch. 12.

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 241-51.

WEEK 11:

Nov. 18 – CULTURE OF DEMOCRACY – COMMERCIAL POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT

Readings:

"Traditional Sport, Modern Sport, and the Male Bachelor Subculture, 1800-1860," in Steven A. Reiss, ed., *Major Problems in American Sport History* (1997), ch. 3.

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 252-66. [RE: p. 255]

Nov. 20 – CULTURE OF DEMOCRACY – PARTISAN POLITICAL CULTURE

Readings:

Jean H. Baker, *Affairs of Party* (1983), ch. 2.

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 266-71.

Nov. 22 – SECTIONAL CULTURES & CONFLICTS

Readings:

Eric Foner, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery* (2010), ch. 3-4.

Blight, *Frederick Douglass' Civil War* (1989), ch. 2.

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 272-81.

WEEK 12:

Nov. 25 – SECTIONAL CONFLICT & SECESSION

Readings:

Charles B. Dew, *Apostles of Disunion* (2001), pp. 1-21, 51-58.

Nov. 27 – JOHN BROWN'S BODY: SYMBOLS & MEANINGS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Readings:

James M. McPherson, *What They Fought For, 1861-1865* (1994), pp. 1-69.

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 281-99.

Nov. 29 – NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING BREAK)

WEEK 13:

Dec. 2 – INTERPRETING THE CIVIL WAR

Readings:

Blight, *Frederick Douglass' Civil War* (1989), ch. 4 & 8.

"Jeff Davis in Drag," draft, 2nd ed., *Crosscurrents in American Culture*.

Dec. 4 – RECONSTRUCTION: REBIRTH OR REMAKING OF A NATION?Readings:

Heather Cox Richardson, *West from Appomattox: The Reconstruction of America after the Civil War* (2007), 39-77.

Recall: Eric Foner, *Forever Free* (from Week 7).

Dec. 6 – FREE AT LAST!: AFRICAN AMERICAN FREEDOM & THE CULTURE OF BLACK POLITICS & COMMUNITY

Readings:

Steven Hahn, *A Nation under Our Feet* (2007), 216-41; 249-64.

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 300-322.

WEEK 14:

Dec. 9 – RECONSTRUCTION AND A NEW NATIONALISM (& REVIEW OF THE COURSE)

Readings:

Desmond King and Stephen Tuck, "De-Centering the South: America's Nationwide White Supremacist Order after Reconstruction," *Past and Present* (2007), 213-253.

Dorsey & Register, *Crosscurrents in American Culture*, 322-335.

SECOND PAPER DUE: Dec. 12 .

FINAL EXAMINATION: Day/Time _____