AMH4160: The Early Republic, 1789-1848
Professor Sean Adams
MWF Period 5 (11:45-12:35)
Keene-Flint 105

Course Introduction and Objectives
This class covers the history of the United States during the first five decades of the nineteenth century. Rather than use a strict narrative account of these years, we will instead focus our attention upon three major themes. First, this course will examine the formation of the American nation in terms of political structure, culture, and society during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Second, we will examine the many meanings of Jacksonian “democracy” and the political changes that occurred during these years. Finally, we will discuss the increasingly diverse growth of the North and the South and the controversies surrounding American slavery by the time of the War with Mexico. By the conclusion of this course, I hope that you leave with a greater understanding for the early history of the United States, and also a enhanced appreciation for the many complexities involved in the formation of the American nation.

After completing this course, students will have a greater appreciation of this critical period of American history. Students also should expect to spend time analyzing primary sources, the “raw ore” of historical research, as well as synthesizing them into broader historical arguments. Over the course of the semester, students will also hone verbal and written arguments that use both primary and secondary sources in order to address complex historical questions.

Required Readings
Assigned readings will come from the following six books. Check each class session to see what readings are due for that day and come to class ready to discuss. Otherwise, you run the risk of getting lost as you try to catch up with the rest of the class. In order to participate in the class—and participation will be figured into your grade—you need to have the assigned readings completed. All of the following books are required for the course.


**Assignments and Grading**

Your grade on this class will be determined by your performance on a variety of written assignments, including essay exams and papers, and your participation in the course. The major written determinants of your grade in this course will be your performance on two take-home exams (5-7 pp.), a series of smaller papers derived from primary sources, and a take-home final exam. The lowest two primary source analyses grades may be dropped—in other words, you are responsible for turning in six (6) of these over the course of the semester. In addition, your attendance and class discussion will contribute to your grade. The breakdown of the grades and the grading scale are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Calculation</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>Grade Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Exam: 20%</td>
<td>100-93=A</td>
<td>A=4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Exam: 20%</td>
<td>92-90=A-</td>
<td>A-=3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Source Analyses: 25%</td>
<td>89-87=B+</td>
<td>B+=3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation: 10%</td>
<td>86-82=B</td>
<td>B=3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam 25%</td>
<td>82-80=B-</td>
<td>B-=2.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
<pre><code>                                  | 79-76=C+      | C+=2.33     |
                                  | 75-72=C       | C=2.00      |
                                  | 71-69=C-      | C-=1.67     |
                                  | 68-66=D+      | D+=1.33     |
                                  | 65-62=D       | D=1.00      |
                                  | 61-60=D-      | D-=0.67     |
                                  | 59-0=E        | E=0.00      |
</code></pre>

I will provide you with details regarding the guidelines, expectations, and evaluation of this written work over the course of the semester. This is yet another reason why regular attendance in this course is not optional, but mandatory. Any more than three (3) unexcused absences will result in a reduction of the participation grade by a full letter. More than six (6) absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Please be respectful to your fellow students by turning off all cell phones and pagers, arriving on time, and please avoid making excessive noise. You may use a computer to take notes, but any distracting web surfing, game playing, or other behavior will not be tolerated. Students who do not abide by these simple rules of courtesy will be asked to leave.

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation
must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class, as it constitutes intellectual theft and academic dishonesty. If you turn in the work of others and try to pass it off as your own, you will fail that assignment and risk expulsion from the University of Florida. I will give you the guidelines, expectations, and other information regarding the written work in this course, so you really have no reason to cheat. I take these matters very seriously and will prosecute vigorously if provoked. Any possible rewards derived from plagiarism simply don’t justify the risk! All students must conform to UF’s honesty policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, and the use of copyrighted materials, which you can find at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scrr/honorcodes/conductcode.php.

Your major assignments will be monitored with the Turnitín Anti-Plagiarism Service, so please keep in mind that cheating on the assignments in this course will be much more difficult than actually doing the work.

**Schedule of Topics and Readings**
(topics, due dates, and other scheduled events are subject to revision by the instructor)

**Section One: The Struggle to Make a Nation**

**Week One: Introduction**
August 22 Introduction to the Course
August 24 Everyday Life in 1789

**Week Two: The New Republic**
August 27 “No Event Could Have Filled Me with Greater Anxieties”

August 29 A Landscape of Challenges

August 31 How to Make a Republican Society?
Week Three: Early Crisis
September 3     Labor Day Holiday—No Class

September 5     Federalists in Control

September 7     Who Are Aliens? What Is Sedition?

First Primary Source Analysis Due Today

Week Four: Jefferson’s America
September 10   The Revolution of 1800

September 12   Jefferson’s America

September 14   Dambargo!
Readings: Freeman, Affairs of Honor, pp. 262-293.
Second Primary Source Analysis Due Today

Week Five: The American Republic at War
September 17   Tension on the Borderlands

September 19   The Wars of 1812, Part 1

September 21   The Wars of 1812, Part 2
Third Primary Source Analysis Due Today
Section Two: A Nation on the Move

Week Six: The Republic Remade
September 24  A Half-Century of Revolution

September 26  First Exam Period

September 28  America in 1819

Week Seven: Expansion
October 1  Internal Improvement

October 3  The New West

October 5  Making the “Old South”

Fourth Primary Source Analysis Due Today

Week Eight: A New North
October 8  The Producer’s Republic: Northern Capitalism in the Early Republic

October 10  Work and Workers in the Early Republic

October 12  Dirty B’Hoys and Fallen Women: New York City as an Urban Problem

Fifth Primary Source Analysis Due Today
Week Nine: Knowing One’s Place
October 15  Burned Over: Religious Revivals in the North
Readings: “Radical Quakers Appeal to Frances Wright, 1828,” “Rev. Charles Finney on Changing One’s Own Heart, 1836,” and “Zilpha Elaw Remembers Preaching in the North and South, 1846” in Adams, The Early American Republic, pp. 115-121.

October 17  Separate Spheres:
Readings: Begin Johnson & Wilentz, The Kingdom of Matthias.

October 19  Discussion: Sex and Salvation in Early America
Readings: Johnson & Wilentz, The Kingdom of Matthias, pp. 3-179.

Week Ten: The Promise of the Republic
October 22  Reforming the Republic

October 24  Sylvester Graham: American Reformer
Sixth Primary Source Analysis Due Today

October 26  The Politics of Reform

Week Eleven: The Rise of the Common Man
October 29  Defining the “Common Man” in the North and South

October 31  The Elections of 1824 and 1828

November 2  Democracy: The Party of Jackson
**Section Three: Jacksonian America**

**Week Twelve: The Monster**
November 5  The Bank War  

November 7  Second Exam Period

November 9  Homecoming Holiday—No Class

**Week Thirteen: The Second American Party System**
November 12  American Whiggery  

November 14  Indian Removal and the “Common Man”  

November 16  The Rise and Fall of American Whiggery  
**Seventh Primary Source Due Today**

**Week Fourteen: What Hath Jackson Wrought?**
November 19  The Legacy of the Second American Party System  

November 21  Thanksgiving Holiday—No Class

November 23  Thanksgiving Holiday—No Class

**Week Fifteen: A Clash of Two Republics**
November 26  Young America and Old Mexico  

November 28  All of Texas and All of Oregon  

November 30  Conflict on the Borderlands  
Eighth Primary Source Analysis Due Today

Week Sixteen: War With Mexico
December 3    The Halls of Montezuma

December 5    The Occupation and the Peace

Final Exam Period: Friday, December 14, 2012.

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