

History 212: Democracy in America  
Fall II 2020

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Monday-Friday 1:00-2:50 pm ALL times on this syllabus are listed in the CENTRAL TIME ZONE. Almost all of the work for this class can be completed asynchronously, and all live class meetings are optional. The class meetings will be recorded, and students may view them afterward.

I am with you all the time--even though our class is online. Please email, call, or text me any time for help with class, or with anything else. I encourage you to take care of yourself. Let me know what you need, and try to share any concerns before they become severe. I am VERY flexible (especially right now), and I will always listen to you. Share your triumphs, too.

Please get in the habit of contacting me frequently and of connecting with your classmates. The largely asynchronous nature of our work means we have to make an effort to contribute and communicate. We will stay connected!

We are studying in a time of global crisis, and life will not always proceed as we envision it. I expect flexibility from you, and you may expect it from me. Please communicate, so we can help one another during these tough times.

Course Focus:

This course examines United States history between 1789 and 1848, a time of deep contradiction in American life and a period of particularly rapid social, political, economic, and cultural change. Our task this semester will be to discover how and why these changes were important and how Americans experienced them. Together, we will examine how American political cultures formed in the period between the formation of the first federal government and the Mexican-American War. We will investigate everything from the creation of political parties, to the rise of capitalism, to taste in furniture styles in order to uncover how diverse Americans lived their lives and how they understood the world around them.

The course will focus specifically on the creation of party politics, reform movements, economic growth and class conflict, expansionism, race, and gender in the period. In our investigation of political culture, we will particularly examine the tensions created in American society by the simultaneous rise of "democracy" and demands for rights by those who continued to be excluded from various forms of power. We will attempt to

discover

sources (and even current events), but keep in mind our common goal of advancing group knowledge. Be respectful and well prepared.

- x Engage with the material, and be ready for controversy and difficult subjects. We are studying a series of events full of racism, violence, and disorder of all kinds. Take care of yourself as you learn to engage with difficult topics from the past that are, nonetheless, vital to understanding the world.

Note: Some of our primary sources contain extremely offensive language. To quote

Primary source papers (each)	10%
Research article assignment	5%
Think Piece	10%
Take-Home Quizzes (each)	10%
Take-Home Final	

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 29

Reading Due: The American Yawp & K 37KH \$PHULFDQ 5HYROXWLR  
1HZ 1DWLRQ´ -W <http://www.americanyawp.com/>; Lindsey  
& KHUYQLVN\ 37KH 5HPDUNDE OTHWtR HbusR His2002 - XG JH´  
Association, <https://www.whitehousehistory.org/the-remarkable-story->

Reading Due: Newspaper excerpts (see P : H E X Q G H U 3 ' R F X P H Q W V  
+ H Q G H U V R Q 3 ' R F X P H Q W L Q J T D e P a p e r E d i t o r J o n J a y W e b s i t e  
<https://blogs.cul.columbia.edu/jayprint/2020/07/26/documenting-an-embroidered-chair-worked-by-madame-lafayette-for-mrs-jay/?fbclid=IwAR2uCqw6Yj29B0X2hFfJ0Vensb6C7gd54gnMSbVL0BRuO4EDUKaEiZOn5lc>; : D W F K W K L V Y L G H R 3 7 K L V , V 1 R W D & K D L U  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MurjslsVJuo> (8:00 )

- 9 Professor Purcell will be online to chat, provide feedback, or answer any questions 1-3 pm

Tuesday, November 3

Vote if you are eligible; follow the news.

- 9 Primary Source Analysis Paper due at 3

Monday, November 9

Reading Due: Charles Ball in Joyce Appleby, ed. Recollections of the Early American Republic, pp. 103







Reading Due: The American Yawp & K 'HPRFUDF\ LQ \$PHULFD'  
<http://www.americanyawp.com/>; Antebellum Culture, pp. 187-201, 237-251

- x 3\$QGUHZ -DFNVRQ↑V 9HWR 0FCVtDringoftheBanc VW WKH 5  
RI WKH 8QLWHG 6WDWHV '  
[http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/democracy\\_-in-america/andrew-jacksons-veto-message-against-re-chartering-the-bank-of-the-united-states-1832/](http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/democracy_-in-america/andrew-jacksons-veto-message-against-re-chartering-the-bank-of-the-united-states-1832/)
- x 3UHVLGHQW -DFNVRQ↑V 3URFODPDWLRQ 5HJDUGLQ  
10, 1832,[https://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th\\_century/jack01.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/jack01.asp)

Thursday, November 26

Friday, November 27

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(46:247>-4<0023>-4< ET Q 0 g 165.14 48is://avalon.law.yap2000912 0 612 792 re W\* n B7

Thursday, December 3

Reading Due: The American Yawp & K <sup>3</sup> 7 KH & R W W R Q 5 H Y R O X W L R  
<http://www.americanyawp.com/> ; Antebellum Culture, pp. 283-325; Lisa A.  
/L Q G V D \ <sup>3</sup> 6 F L S L R 9 D X J K D Q Atlantic Bonds (Chapel Hill: U of N C Press, 2017), 13 -42,  
[http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9781469631134\\_lindsay.4](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9781469631134_lindsay.4)

- x "Solomon Northrup Describes a Slave Market," 1841,  
<http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/the-cotton-revolution/solomon-northrup-describes-a-slave-market-1841/>

Friday, December 4 7 KH <sup>3</sup> & X O W R I 7 U X H : R P D Q K R R G ´

Reading Due: Antebellum Culture, pp. 13-20, 73-83, 385-389; Elizabeth R.  
Varon <sup>3</sup> 7 L S S H F D Q R H D Q G W K H / D G L H V 7 R R : K L J : R P D Q K R  
L Q \$ Q W H E H O O Journal of American History 82 (1995): 494-521,  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2082184>; SKIM: % D U E D U D : H O W I F U <sup>3</sup> 7 KH  
True Womanhood, 1820- American Quarterly Summer 1966: 151-174,  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2711179>.

Monday, December 7

Reading Due: JSTOR book: Gerda Lerner, The Grimké Sisters from South  
Carolina, Introduction ,  
([http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9780807868096\\_lerner.5](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9780807868096_lerner.5)) & pp. 3-115  
([http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9780807868096\\_lerner.6](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9780807868096_lerner.6)); Antebellum  
Culture, pp. 418-428

- x Angelina Grimké, "Appeal to Christian Women of the South," 1836,  
<http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/religion-and-reform/angelina-grimke>

Reading Due: JSTOR book: Lerner, Grimké Sisters, pp. 116-264  
([http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9780807868096\\_lerner.6](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9780807868096_lerner.6)); Antebellum