

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

HIST 727.01 Fall 2003  
COLLOQUIUM IN U.S. HISTORY  
(1607-1865), Tuesday 5:30-8:00 PM

Dr. ALAN M. KRAUT  
OFFICE HRS. Battelle 143  
Hrs. M 3:00-5:00 PM  
TF3:30-5:00 PM

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This colloquium treats the history of the United States from the colonial period through the Civil War. Extensive readings and class discussion introduce the most important literature of the period as well as the major topics and interpretive issues that are of special interest to the professional historian. Historiography is the major focus. The course is not primarily a review of factual material of a substantive nature. Such material is covered in other history department courses and can be acquired through the student's own independent reading program. Neither does the colloquium seek definitive resolution to the historiographical debates in which historians routinely engage. Orientation and direction are the goals of the course:

- 1) Identification and analysis of the important topics and issues in the field of American history.
- 2) Identification of and orientation to the most important literature in the field.
- 3) Explication of historiographical trends and works that are of importance to graduate students receiving professional training in American history.

REQUIREMENTS

1) The weekly "general" or "core" readings are assigned to all students and are intended to afford a common basis for general class discussion. They include readings that introduce the student to major topics and interpretive issues and generally represent state-of-the-art scholarship. Some portion of each week's assignment is usually devoted to readings that treat points of historiographical debate and trends in the historiography of the period being discussed. Core readings are marked by asterisks in the section "Weekly Assignments."

2) Special book reports by individual students are designed to introduce an awareness and understanding of important works that time does not permit to be included among the core readings. For the benefit of all in the colloquium, each review will be presented orally as well as in writing. Oral reports may not be read and should be no more than ten to fifteen minutes in length. Written reports should be no more than five word processed pages and include the following information (not necessarily in this order):

- a) Author, full title of book, publisher, date of original publication, number of pages.

- b) Brief summary of the book, with special attention the author's thesis and sub-theses.
- c) Discussion of the historiographical significance of the work (Its place in the literature of the era [colonial, Jacksonian, etc.] as well as its contribution to the historiography of the topic or issue in question [slavery, immigration, epidemics, etc.].
- d) Evaluation and critical commentary.
- e) Description and assessment of sources and methodology.

Reports must be word processed with care to organization, structure, punctuation, spelling, clarity, accuracy and correctness as well as to the substance of the works. PROOF READ -- errors are your responsibility, not spell check's fault.

To allow everyone in the colloquium to read and think about these reports in conjunction with the core readings, reviews must be prepared, photocopied, and distributed to all members on Monday afternoon by 5:00 PM before the Tuesday when it is due in class. Two copies to the instructor. Class members can receive the reports via E-mail, but the instructor is to receive a hard copy as well as E-mail.

Books will be assigned by the instructor during the first two meetings. Thus, within two weeks of the beginning of the course, each student will know precisely what his or her assignments are for the course. There is no excuse for a student assigned a volume for December to appear ten days before the report's due date with the complaint that he/she cannot find the book. All but the first several weeks of reports will be docked a full letter grade if not submitted on time.

### 3) GRADES (approximate weight)

Class participation	20%
Written reports	50%
Final Exam	30%

No extensions, incompletes, or make-up examinations will be given except for medical reasons or other extraordinary circumstances (as defined by the instructor). All medical excuses must be documented with appropriate doctor's note.

There will be a final examination in class on **Tuesday, December 16th**. It will consist of a choice of one essay from several and will be designed to simulate a comprehensive exam question. Further details will be announced in class.

### CORE READINGS (available for purchase and on library reserve)

Couvares, Francis G., Saxton, Martha,  
Grob, Gerald N. & Billias, George Athan

*Interpretations of American History:  
Patterns and Perspectives* (7th ed.)  
*Captives & Cousins: Slavery, Kinship and  
Community in the Southwest Borderlands*

Brooks, James F.

Morgan, Edmund	<i>American Slavery and American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia</i>
Greene, Jack P.	<i>Pursuits of Happiness: The Social Development of Early Modern British Colonies and the Formation of American Culture</i>
Bailyn, Bernard	<i>The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution</i>
Wood, Gordon S.	<i>The Radicalism of the American Revolution</i>
Waldstreicher, David	<i>In the Midst of Perpetual Fetes: The Making of American Nationalism, 1776-1820</i>
Howe, Daniel Walker	<i>The Political Culture of the American Whigs</i>
Sellers, Charles	<i>The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846</i>
Rosenberg, Charles	<i>The Cholera Years: The United States in 1832, 1849 and 1866</i>
Johnson, Walter	<i>Soul by Soul: Inside the Antebellum Slave Market</i>
Foner, Eric	<i>Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men: The Ideology of the Republican Party Before the Civil War</i>
Freehling, William	<i>The South vs. The South: How Anti-Confederate Southerners Shaped the Course of the Civil War</i>
Novick, Peter	<i>That Noble Dream: The Objectivity Question and the American Historical Profession</i>

## SCHEDULE

August 26: Introduction and Assignments

September 2: Native Americans, European Encounters and the Atlantic World

Core: Brooks, *Captives and Cousins*  
Grob and Billias, pp.61-99

Reports: William Cronon, *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England*  
James Axtell, *The Invasion Within: The Contest of Cultures in Colonial North America*  
Ramon Gutierrez, *When Jesus Came the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage Sexuality and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846*  
Noble David Cook, *Born to Die, Disease and New World Conquest, 1492-1650*

September 9: Early Colonial Society

Core: Morgan, *American Slavery, American Freedom*  
Grob & Billias, pp.22-38; 100-113.

Reports: Edmund Morgan, *Visible Saints: History of a Puritan Idea*

Stephen Innes, *Labor in a New Land: Economy and Society in Seventeenth Century Springfield*  
Kathleen Brown, *Good Wives and Nasty Wenches: Gender, Race and Power in Colonial Virginia*  
Richard S. Dunn, *Sugar and Slaves: The Rise of the Planter Class in the English West Indies, 1624-1713*

September 16: Development of Colonial Society and Culture  
Core: Greene, *Pursuits of Happiness*

Reports: Bernard Bailyn, *Voyagers to the West: A Passage in the Peopling of America on the Eve of the Revolution*  
John McCusker and Russell Menard, *The Economy of British America, 1607-1789*  
Richard White, *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815*  
David Hackett Fischer, *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America*  
Richard Bushman, *The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities*

September 23: The American Revolution  
Core: Bailyn, *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*  
Grob & Billias, pp.137-155.

Reports: Alfred Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party*  
Gary Nash, *The Urban Crucible: Social Change, Political Consciousness and the Origins of the American Revolution*  
Pauline Maier, *American Scripture, Making the Declaration of Independence*  
Charles Royster, *A Revolutionary People at War: The Continental Army and American Character, 1775-1783*  
Sylvia Frey, *Water From the Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age*

September 30: The Federalists and the Federal Constitution  
Core: Wood, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*  
Grob & Billias, pp.177-194.

Reports: Jackson Turner Main, *Political Parties Before the Constitution*  
Roger Brown, *Redeeming the Republic, Federalists, Taxation and the Origins of the Constitution*  
Laurel Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812*  
Charles Beard, *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution*

October 7: **FALL BREAK -- NO CLASS**

October 14: Jeffersonian Republicans and the Rise of the National Parties

Core: Waldstreicher, *In the Midst of Perpetual Fetes*

Reports: Stanley Elkins & Eric McKittrick, *The Age of Federalism: The Early American Republic, 1788-1800*  
Drew McCoy, *The Elusive Republic: Political Economy in Jeffersonian America*  
Paul Gilje, *The Road to Mobocracy: Popular Disorder in New York City, 1763-1834*  
Roger H. Brown, *The Republic in Peril: 1812*  
Richard Hofstadter, *The Idea of a Party System: The Rise of Legitimate Opposition in the United States*  
James Sterling Young, *The Washington Community, 1800-1828*

October 21: The Age of Jackson

Core: Howe, *The Political Culture of the American Whigs*

Grob & Billias, pp.216-234.

Ronald P. Formisano, "The Invention of the Ethnocultural Interpretation," *American Historical Review* 99(April, 1994).

Reports: Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. *The Age of Jackson*  
Lee Benson, *The Concept of Jacksonian Democracy*  
Michael Holt, *The Rise and Fall of the American Whig Party, Jacksonian Politics and the Onset of Civil War*  
William J. Cooper, *The South and the Politics of Slavery, 1828-1856*  
Ronald P. Formisano, *The Transformation of Political Culture, Massachusetts Parties, 1790s-1840s*  
Glenn C. Altschuler & Stuart Blumin, *Rude Republic: Americans and the Politics in the Nineteenth Century*

October 28: Industrialization and the Transformation of American Life

Core: Sellers, *The Market Revolution*

Reports: Sean Wilentz, *Chants Democratic: New York City & the Rise of the American Working Class*  
Christine Stansell, *City of Women: Sex and Class in New York, 1789-1860*  
Mary Ryan, *Cradle of the Middle Class*  
Stuart Blumin, *The Emergence of the Middle Class: Social Experience in the American City, 1760-1900*  
Alan Dawley, *Class and Community: The Industrial Revolution in Lynn*  
David Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness: Race and the Making of the*

*American Working Class*

Alan Taylor, *William Cooper's Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early American Republic*

Wilma A. Dunaway, *The First American Frontier: Transition to Capitalism in Southern Appalachia, 1700-1850*

November 4: Slavery and the Construction of Race

Core: Johnson, *Soul By Soul*

Grob & Billias, pp.296-313.

Reports: Eugene Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made*

Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, *Within the Plantation Household: Black and White Women of the Old South*

Stanley Elkins, *Slavery*

Robert Fogel & Stanley Engerman, *Time on the Cross* (vol.1).

James Oakes, *The Ruling Race, A History of American Slaveholders*

Ira Berlin, *Generations of Captivity: A History of African-American Slaves*

Sharla M. Fett, *Working Cures: Healing, Health and Power on the Southern Plantation*

Noel Ignatiev, *How the Irish Became White*

November 11: Antebellum Reform and the Law

Core: Rosenberg, *The Cholera Years*

Grob and Billias, pp.257-272.

Reports: Morton Horowitz, *The Transformation of American Law, 1780-1860*

Mary Ryan, *Civic Wars: Democracy and Public Life in the American City During the Nineteenth Century*

Robert Abzug, *Cosmos Crumbling: American Reform and the Religious Imagination*

James Brewer Stewart, *Holy Warriors: The Abolitionists and American Slavery*

Michael Grossberg, *Governing the Hearth: Law and Family in the Nineteenth Century*

Paul Johnson, *A Shopkeeper's Millennium: Society and Revivals in Rochester, New York, 1815-1837*

David Rothman, *The Discovery of the Asylum: Social Order and Disorder in the New Republic*

November 18: Pre-Civil War Politics

Core: Foner, *Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men*

Reports: David Potter, *The Impending Crisis*

William Gienapp, *The Origins of the Republican Party*  
Joel Silbey, *The American Political Nation, 1838-1893*  
William Freehling, *Prelude to Civil War: The Nullification Crisis in South Carolina, 1816-1836*  
Michael Holt, *Political Parties and American Political Development: From the Age of Jackson to the Age of Lincoln*

November 25: The Civil War

Core: Freehling, *The Reintegration of American History*  
Grob & Billias, pp.339-355.

Report: Gary Gallagher, *Confederate War*

Charles Royster, *The Destructive War: William Tecumseh Sherman, Stonewall Jackson and the Americans*

William Freehling, *The Road to Disunion: Secessionists at Bay, 1776-1854*

Anne Rose, *Victorian America and the Civil War*

Iver Bernstein, *The New York City Draft Riots, Their Significance for American Society and Politics in the Age of the Civil War*

Avery Craven, *The Repressible Conflict, 1830-1861*

Drew Faust, *Mothers of Invention: Women of the Slaveholding South in the American Civil War*

December 2: Historians and Their Arguments

Core: Novick, *That Noble Dream*

Peter Zagorian, "History, The Referent, and Narrative: Reflections on Postmodernism Now," *History and Theory*  
38(February, 1999): 1-24.

Reports: Carol Reardon, *Pickett's Charge in History and Memory*

Robert Brent Toplin, ed. *Ken Burns's The Civil War: Historians Respond*

Edward Linenthal and Tom Engelhart, eds. *The Enola Gay and Other Battles for the American Past*

December 16: **Final examination (5:30-8:00 pm).**