

AM201: American Identities

Fall 2008

Tisch Learning Center 305

T/Th 11:10am-12:30pm

Prof. B.V. Hollenbeck

This course is about what it means to be an American. We will explore some changing ideas of American identity by examining primary sources from the colonial period to the aftermath of the Civil War in the middle of the 19th century. Our topics will include equality, race, gender roles, religion, class divisions, reform movements, and expansionism. We'll also compare ideals and actions, and consider ways in which early American identities affect the United States today. Classes will be primarily discussions, thus regular class attendance, careful preparation, and active participation are required.

Course Requirements:

Student work in this course will include:

Class Participation (20%): This includes class attendance (see below); reading assignments carefully and fully, and being prepared to discuss them in class; contributing consistently, thoughtfully, and respectfully in class; speaking about work you did for a paper assignment; and participating in discussions on Blackboard.

Annotated Bibliography (20%)

Response Papers (3 together equaling 20%)

Group Project & Presentation (20%)

Final Exam (20%)

Goals:

The goals for this course are for you to:

1. build a deeper understanding of the development of the United States and of the tensions between American commonalities and national diversity,
2. increase your ability to do interdisciplinary work and to explore problems from multiple perspectives,
3. develop your ability to read and analyze primary sources,
4. expand your speaking, research, and writing skills.

Required books:

David Grimsted, ed., *American Visions and Revisions, 1609-1865*

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (Yale U. Press)

Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno* (Thrift Edition)

Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (Norton Critical Edition)

Attendance:

More than three absences will have a negative impact on your final grade. Absences for observing religious holidays do not count, but all other absences, for whatever reason, do count. This three-absence leeway is intended to accommodate sickness and real

Students should familiarize themselves with the Skidmore Honor Code and Student Handbooks.

Finding Me:

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Office Hours: T/TH 1-3pm, W/F 10:30am-12pm

If you are unable to see me during my office hours, please speak with me to arrange another time. I am normally on campus Monday through Friday.

Schedule:

Thursday, 9/4

Introduction to American Identities

Part I: Colonies to Nation

Tuesday, 9/9

Expectations, Needs, and Contact

TEXT:

Grimsted Chapter 1

*Native American Reactions. Pp. 9-13.

*John Smith, "A Description of New England," 1616. Pp. 14-19.

BLACKBOARD:

a. Image from Mandeville.

b. Columbus, Letter to Luis de Santangel, Keeper of the Privy Purse, February 1493.

c. Descriptions and drawings/engravings by Thomas Harriot and John White, who accompanied Sir Richard Grenville's expedition to Virginia in 1585.

d. Arthur Barlowe on Roanoke, 1584.

e. Thomas Harriot on Indian-Colonist relationships, 1588.

f. William Bradford on the wilderness, 1620.

Thursday, 9/11

New England: A City on a Hill

TEXT:

Grimsted Chapters 1 & 2

*John Winthrop, "Model of Christian Charity," 1630. Pp. 20-26.

*Letters between the Winthrops, 1629-1630. Pp. 29-36.

*John Winthrop, Journal, 1631-1644. Pp. 37-62.

*Anne Bradstreet, Poetry. Pp. 65-67.

*Roger Williams, *A Key into the Language of America*, 1647/1655. Pp. 68-70.

*Roger Williams, *Bloody Tenet of Persecution for the Cause of Conscience*, 1643. Pp. 71-74.

*Roger Williams, "To the Town of Providence," 1655. P. 75.

*John Cotton, *The Bloody Tenet Washed White in the Blood of the Lamb*, 1647. Pp. 76-77.

BLACKBOARD:

a. John Winthrop, *General Observations*, 1629.

b. Connecticut Blue Laws, 1672.

c. Children's Alphabet book, *New England Primer*, 1690.

d. Trial of Anne Hutchinson, 1637.

Tuesday, 9/16

Apocalypse, War, and Troubled Growth

BLACKBOARD:

- a. Michael Wigglesworth, *Day of Doom*, 1662, published in 1670.
- b. Mary Rowlandson, *Captivity Narrative*, 1676.
- c. N.S., King Philip's War, "A Contemporary Account," 1676.
- d. Increase Mather, "Account of King Philip," 1676.
- e. Cotton Mather, "Account of Hannah Dustan's Captivity," 1697/1702.
- f. Cotton Mather, "Account of Salem Trials," 1693.
- g. Testimony of the Salem Witch Trials. From Boyer & Nissenbaum, ed. *Salem Village Witchcraft, A Documentary Record*.
- h. Samuel Sewall, Confession.

Thursday, 9/18

The Southern Colonies

TEXT:

Grimsted Chapter 3

- *Passenger Lists to Virginia and Mass, 1635. Pp. 81-84.
- *John Smith, *General History of Virginia*, 1624. Pp. 85-92.
- *Robert Beverly, *History and Present State of Virginia*, 1709. Pp. 93-100.
- *William Byrd II, *History of the Dividing Line*, 1741. Pp. 101-107.
- *William Byrd II, Secret diary, 1709-1712. Pp. 108-122. (Skim this. Read enough that you get a sense of Byrd's daily life, his values, and his personality.)

BLACKBOARD:

- a. Letters of Richard Frethorne, Indentured servant, Virginia, 1623.
- b. Nathaniel Bacon, *Manifesto*, 1676.
- c. Raphe Hamor on Tobacco, 1614, and John Rolfe on Tobacco, 1616.
- d. Anonymous, "Tobacco Cultivation in American Husbandry," 1775.
- e. Olaudah Equiano, On the Middle Passage. From his *Autobiography* (1791).

Tuesday, 9/23

American Dreams

TEXT:

Grimsted Chapters 3 & 4

- *John Woolman, Journal, 1774. Pp. 124-136.
- *Benjamin Franklin, *The Way to Wealth*, 1757. Pp. 139-142.
- *Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography*. Pp. 143-181.
- *de Crevecoeur, *Letters from an American Farmer*, 1782. Pp. 187-198.

BLACKBOARD:

- a. J. Edwards, *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*, 1741.

Thursday, 9/25

Revolution! And the Heroic Generation

TEXT:

Grimsted Chapter 5

*“Declaration of Independence as Adopted by Congress,” 1776. Pp. 202-205.

*Thomas Paine, from *The American Crisis*, 1776. Pp. 206-210.

BLACKBOARD:

a. John Locke, *The Second Treatise on Civil Government*, 1689.

b. Stamp Act Congress, *from Declaration of Rights and Grievances of the Colonies*, 1765.

c. Benjamin Franklin, “An Edict by the King of Prussia,” 1773.

d. Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, 1776.

e. Views of American Soldiers: British, American, and French.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE in class on 9/25. (Be ready to discuss your project.)

Part II: Forming a More Perfect Union

Tuesday, 9/30

(In)Equality and the New Nation

TEXT:

Grimsted Chapter 5

*Abigail and John Adams, Letters, 1774-1776. Pp. 213-218.

*Patrick Henry, *On Slavery*, 1773. Pp. 211-212.

*Daniel Bliss, “An Epitaph for John Jack,” 1773. P. 219.

*Phillis Wheatley, *Selected Writings*, 1767-1774. Pp. 220-224.

*James Madison, *The Federalist Papers*, No. 54, 1787-1788. Pp. 238-240.

*Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*, 1787. Pp. 225-232.

BLACKBOARD:

a. Constitutional Convention, Debates on Slavery, 1787.

b. Slave Trade Provision Defended, Pinckney (SC) and Wilson (PA). 1787.

c. “Constitution of the United States,” 1787.

Thursday, 10/2

Building the New Nation

BLACKBOARD:

a. Joel Barlow, *The Columbiad*.

b. Library of Congress web exhibit and documents – *Temple of Liberty: Building the Capital of a New Nation*

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/us.capitol/s0.html>

c. France Trollope, *Domestic Manners of the Americans*, excerpt on the Capital, 1832.

d. Anthony Trollope, *North America*, excerpt on the Capital, 1862.

Tuesday, 10/7

Creating Citizens, Educating Citizens

TEXT:

Grimsted Chapter 7

*Thomas Jefferson, from *Notes on the State of Virginia*, 1785. Pp. 311-314.

*Robert Coram, from *Political Inquiries*, 1792. Pp. 315-327.

*Horace Mann, from *Reports on Education*, 1845. Pp. 328-343.

*Catharine Beecher, from *The Duty of American Women to Their Country*, 1845. Pp. 344-349.

BLACKBOARD:

a. North Carolina Law of 1831.

b. Boucher on American Education (1773); Wills of Kosciuszko and Washington; General Assembly of Presbyterian Church (1800); American Convention of Delegates from Abolition Societies (1795).

Thursday, 10/9

NO CLASS – Yom Kippur

Tuesday, 10/14

Democratic Culture

TEXT:

Grimsted Chapters 9 & 10

*Alexis de Tocqueville, from *Democracy in America*, 1835/1840. Pp. 399-401, 404-425.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson, from *Self Reliance*, 1841. In Grimsted, pp. 428-434.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson, from *Journals*, 1820-1864. pp. 35-49.

*Woodworth, "Columbia, the Pride of the World," "Virgin Land," "The Hunters of Kentucky," and "The Grand Canal." Pp. 453-456.

*Longfellow, "A Psalm of Life," "Hymn to the Night," "The Day Is Done," "My Lost Youth," and "The Village Blacksmith." Pp. 466-469, 471-472.

*Whitman, "Song of Myself." Pp. 479-486.

Part III: Diversity & Growth

Thursday, 10/16

The West

BLACKBOARD:

a. Frederick Jackson Turner, *The Frontier in American History*. 1893.

b. President Jackson, "Second Address to Congress." 1830.

(reading assignment continues on next page)

- c. Indian Removal Act of 1830.
- d. Cherokee Responses.
- e. Senator Thomas Hart Benton on Manifest Destiny, 1846.
- f. Hezekiah Niles, "Indians within the United States," 29 Dec 1827, *Niles' Weekly Register* (Baltimore).
- g. Alexis de Tocqueville, A Letter to Countess de Tocqueville. 1831.
- h. Paintings of the West
 - 1. Jewett, *The Promised Land – The Grayson Family*, 1850.
 - 2. Bingham, *Daniel Boone Escorting Settlers through the Cumberland Gap*, 1851-2.
 - 3. Leutze, *Westward the Course of Empire Takes Its Way*, 1862.
 - 4. Bierstadt, *Emigrants Crossing the Plain*, 1867.
 - 5. Goddard, *Where to Emigrate and Why*, 1869.
 - 6. Waud, *Building the Union Pacific Railroad in Nebraska*, 1867.
 - 7. Palmer, *Across the Continent*, 1868.
 - 8. Durand, *Progress*, 1853.
 - 9. Gast, *American Progress*, 1872.
 - 10. King, *Young Omahaw, War Eagle, Little Missouri, and Pawnees*, 1822.
 - 11. Miller, *Surround of Buffalo by Indians*, 1848-58.
 - 12. Catlin, *Mandan Village*, 1837-39.
 - 13. Tait, *The Prairie Hunter*, "One Rubbed Out!," 1852.
 - 14. Wimar, *The Attack on an Emigrant Train*, 1856.
 - 15. T. Kaufmann, *Westward the Star of Empire*, 1867.
 - 16. Matteson, *Last of the Race*, 1847.

Response Paper 1 Due in class

Tuesday, 10/21

Emerging Capitalism

TEXT:

Grimsted Chapters 9 & 11

*Tocqueville, "How an Aristocracy May Be Created by Manufacturers." Pp. 425-427. And review "Restlessness in the Midst of Prosperity," pp. 414-415.

*Thomas Skidmore, *Rights of Man to Property*, 1829. Pp. 512-520.

*Orestes Augustus Brownson, from *The Laboring Classes*, 1840. Pp. 521-529.

*George Fitzhugh, from *Sociology for the South*, 1854. Pp. 530-535.

BLACKBOARD:

a. Thomas Jefferson on the Agrarian Ideal, 1787.

b. Appleton Company Regulations, Lowell. 1833.

c. Letter from "Susan," a Lowell Mill worker. 1844.

d. Lowell Woman Worker's Protest, 1845.

e. *United States Democratic Review*, Argues that "White Slavery" threatens the north. 1842.

f. Reverend Alonzo Potter Defends Wage Labor. 1841.

g. Sketch of the Life of Gideon Lee, 1843.

Thursday, 10/23

Immigration: The Irish

BLACKBOARD:

- a. The American Platform (The Know-Nothing Party), 1856.
- b. Diary of George Templeton Strong, 1838-1857.
- c. John Francis Maguire, *The Irish in America*, 1867.
- d. Samuel F. B. Morse, *Imminent Dangers to the Free Institutions of the United States*, 1835.
- e. Lincoln on the Know-Nothings. 1855.
- f. Anna Ella Carroll, *The Great American Battle: or the contest between Christianity and Romanism*.

Tuesday, 10/28

Women, Domesticity, and the Home

BLACKBOARD:

- a. Harriet Martineau, *from General Treatise on Money and Property Rights of Wives*, 1837.
- b. Catharine Beecher, *from A Treatise on Domestic Economy, for the Use of Young Ladies at Home and at School*, 1846/1841.
- c. Sarah Josepha Hale [?], "Material Instruction," *Godey's Lady's Book*, 1845.
- d. Lydia Sigourney, "Home," 1850.
- e. Sarah Josepha Hale, "How American Women Should Vote," *Godey's Ladies Book*, April 1852.
- f. Henry Mills Alden, the Editor of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, Nov 4, 1853.
- g. Frances S. Osgood, "Triumph of the Spiritual Over the Sensual."
- h. Thomas Branagan, *The Excellency of the Female Character Vindicated*.
- i. Eliza Farrar, *The Young Lady's Friend*, 1836.
- j. *The Young Lady's Book*, 1829.
- k. Caroline Gilman, *Recollections of a Southern Matron*, 1838.

Response Paper 2 Due in class

Thursday, 10/30

Women's Rights and Reform

TEXT:

- Grimsted Chapter 12
*Weld-Grimke Letters. Pp. 540-562.
*Seneca Falls Declaration of Rights, 1848. Pp. 563-565.

BLACKBOARD:

- a. Pastoral Letter to New England Churches, 1837.
- b. Sarah Grimke, Reply to Pastoral Letter, 1837.
- c. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Address at first women's rights convention, Seneca Falls, July 19, 1848.

(reading assignment continues on next page)

- d. Sojourner Truth, Speech at women's convention, Akron, Ohio, 1851.
- e. Marriage contract between Lucy Stone and Henry B. Blackwell, 1855.
- f. "Rights of Maternity," 1845, in Henry C. Wright, *The Unwelcome Child*, 1858.

Tuesday, 11/4

Slavery

TEXT:

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* – 1st half

Thursday, 11/6

Antislavery

TEXT:

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* – 2nd half

Response Paper 3 Due in class

Tuesday, 11/11

Benito Cereno

TEXT:

Melville, *Benito Cereno*, all.

Part IV: The Impending Crisis

Thursday, 11/13

Uncle Tom's Cabin

TEXT:

Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*: I

Tuesday, 11/18

Uncle Tom's Cabin

TEXT:

Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*: II

Thursday, 11/20

Uncle Tom's Cabin

TEXT:

Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*: III

Tuesday, 11/25

Civil War

TEXT:

Grimsted Chapters 12, 13 & 14

*Frederick Douglass, Fifth of July Speech, 1852. Pp. 566-571.

*Lincoln, Lincoln-Douglas Debates, 1858. Pp. 592-600.

*Thomas Wentworth Higginson, *Army Life in a Black Regiment*, 1867. Pp. 692-708.

*Lincoln, Letter to Horace Greeley, August 22, 1862. Pp. 709-710.

BLACKBOARD:

a. Douglas, Lincoln-Douglas Debates.

b. Hinton Rowan Helper, "The Impending Crisis of the South," 1857.

c. Senator Robert Toombs (Georgia), Speech, November 1860.

d. *Vicksburg Daily Whig*, January 18, 1860.

e. Rep. John H. Reagan (Texas), January 15, 1861.

f. Giddings, Speech to Congress, 1846.

g. *Boston Herald*, November 12, 1860.

h. *Chicago Tribune*, *Milwaukee Sentinel*, Franklin Livingston, *Herald*, Senator Iverson (GA), 1856-1861.

i. *Chicago Tribune*, January 7, 1861.

j. *New Orleans Bee*, December 14, 1860.

k. *Charleston Mercury*, October 11, 1860.

l. Alexander H. Stephens speech, Savannah, March 21, 1861.

m. Jefferson Davis, message to Confederate Congress, April 29, 1861.

Thursday, 11/27

NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Tuesday, 12/2

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Outline and bibliography due in class

Thursday, 12/4

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Outline and bibliography due in class

Tuesday, 12/9

Looking Forward: Reconstruction

TEXT:

Grimsted Chapter 14

*Lincoln, Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865. Pp. 712-713.

BLACKBOARD:

a. "Memories of Emancipation," c. 1865.

(reading assignment continues on next page)

- b. Black Codes of Mississippi.
- c. 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.
- d. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Who Are Our Friends?" *The Revolution*, January 1868.
- e. "I'm a good old rebel." Song, 1866.
- f. James S. Pike, "South Carolina's Reconstruction Government," 1873.
- g. Organization and Principles of the Ku Klux Klan, 1868.
- h. Ben Tillman, on Reconstruction.

Monday, December 15

FINAL EXAM – 1:30-4:30pm, TLC 305