

HIS 723: Topics in 19th Century American History
Fall 2010
The Market Revolution

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The purpose of this course is to introduce graduate students to some of the most significant scholarly works on the Market Revolution, ca. 1815-1850. Students will critically analyze historical monographs through class discussion and written reviews and will write either a research paper based on primary and secondary sources or a historiographical paper.

Required books:

Charles Sellers, **The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846** (1994)
Melvyn Stokes & Stephen Conway, eds., **The Market Revolution in America: Social, Political, and Religious Expressions, 1800-1880** (1996)
Sean Wilentz, **The Rise of American Democracy: Abridged College Edition** (2008)
Anthony Wallace, **The Long, Bitter Trail: Andrew Jackson and the Indians** (1993)
Paul E. Johnson & Sean Wilentz, **The Kingdom of Matthias: A Story of Sex and Salvation in 19th-Century America** (2005)
Bruce Dorsey, **Reforming Men and Women: Gender in the Antebellum City** (2006)
Christine Stansell, **City of Women: Sex and Class in New York, 1789-1860** (1987)
Walter Johnson, **Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market** (2001)
Peter Way, **Common Labor: Workers and the Digging of North American Canals, 1780-1860** (1997)

Assignments:

Besides reading a book a week (or more) you will turn in a written review for two of the assigned books. In addition, one week you will lead discussion of the weekly readings in class. Class discussion is central to this course and will form a significant part of your grade. Finally, you will write an article manuscript critique and a ~20 page research OR historiographical paper due at the end of the semester.

Doing the book reviews:

You will prepare professional-quality book reviews of each of your assigned weekly readings. Professional quality means that your review could be published in an academic history journal, and, thus, the review should expose the author's thesis and main supporting points, discuss and evaluate the evidence presented by the author to prove his/her thesis, suggest how this book fits into the historiography on that subject, and tell who the author is. Do NOT tell me that the book is "interesting" for that means absolutely nothing. Do tell me why the book is important, what its flaws (if any) are, and why we must all be familiar with its thesis in order to better understand the Market Revolution. Browse through the book reviews in the journals *Reviews*

in American History, Journal of the Early Republic, William and Mary Quarterly (all are in the library or available online through the J-Stor database) for examples of what I am asking for. You may consult published reviews of the books you are working on, but do not copy and paste from them, as that is cheating, and I want to read your words not someone else's. Each review should be double spaced and about 3 pages in length, no more than 4 pages and no less than 2.

Article manuscript critique:

To give you practice critiquing a work-in-progress and therefore becoming more skilled at critiquing your own work, you will write a referee report of one of my on-going article drafts. This activity is how academic journals assess the soundness and originality of an article submission. Write a two-page report outlining the topic of the article and its contribution (or lack thereof) to the literature on the Market Revolution. Then offer suggestions for strengthening the article's argument, organization, language, or anything else you think it needs to be the best piece possible on its topic. This exercise is worth 10% of your overall grade and is due on November 11.

Grading:

Written Reviews (2):	10% each	20%
Discussion Leadership		10%
Discussion Participation		20%
Critique of Dr. O'Brien's paper draft		10%
Final Paper		<u>40%</u>
		100%

Schedule:

All of the articles listed in the schedule are available on the J-STOR, Project MUSE, or EBSCO-Host databases through the UNCG Library database webpages.

Week 1 8/26	Introduction
Week 2 9/2	What is the Market Revolution? Reading: Charles Sellers, The Market Revolution
Week 3 9/9	Democracy Unleashed Reading: Sean Wilentz, The Rise of American Democracy (abridged edition) Stokes & Conway, eds., The Market Revolution in America: Social, Political, and Religious Expressions , chapters 5, 6, 7, 9, 10
Week 4 9/16	Other Perspectives & Critiques of the Market Revolution Reading: Stokes & Conway, eds., The Market Revolution in America: Social, Political, and Religious Expressions , Introduction, 12

Articles:

Read the Forum on Charles Seller's *The Market Revolution* in the *Journal of the Early Republic* vol. 12, no. 4 (1992) 445-476. *JSTOR*

Daniel Feller, "The Market Revolution Ate My Homework," *Reviews in American History* 25.3 (1997), 408-415 *Project Muse*

Part of a forum on Sean Wilentz's book *The Rise of American Democracy*: James Oakes, "The Ages of Jackson and the Rise of American Democracies," *The Journal of the Historical Society* 6 (December 2006) 491-500. *EBSCO Host*

See also the excellent review of Daniel Walker Howe's *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848* by Jill Lepore in *The New Yorker*, October 29, 2007:

http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/books/2007/10/29/071029crbo_books_lepore?printable=true

Week 5 **TOPIC FOR RESEARCH OR HISTORIOGRAPHICAL PAPER DUE**

9/23 **Reform Movements & Cities (considered with gender, race, and class)**

Reading: Bruce Dorsey, **Reforming Men and Women: Gender in the Antebellum City**

Stokes & Conway, eds., **The Market Revolution in America: Social, Political, and Religious Expressions**, chapter 1

Article:

Mary P. Ryan, "Civil Society as Democratic Practice: North American Cities During the Nineteenth Century," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 29 (Spring 1999): 559-84 *JSTOR*

Week 6 **The Lives of Working-Class Women**

9/30 Reading: Christine Stansell, **City of Women**

Stokes & Conway, eds., **The Market Revolution in America: Social, Political, and Religious Expressions**, chapter 3

Week 7 **Religious Ferment**

10/7 Reading: Paul E. Johnson & Sean Wilentz, **The Kingdom of Matthias**

Stokes & Conway, eds., **The Market Revolution in America: Social, Political, and Religious Expressions**, chapter 11

Article:

Mary P. Ryan, "A Women's Awakening: Evangelical Religion and the Families of Utica, New York, 1800-1840," *American Quarterly*, Vol. 30, No. 5, Special Issue: Women and Religion (Winter, 1978), pp. 602-623 *JSTOR*

Week 8 **BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCES FOR PAPER DUE**

Indian Removal

10/14 Reading: Anthony Wallace, **The Long, Bitter Trail: Andrew Jackson and the Indians**

Article:

Mary Hershberger, "Mobilizing Women, Anticipating Abolition: The Struggle Against Indian Removal in the 1830s," *Journal of American History* 86 (June 1999): 15-40 *JSTOR*

Week 9 **The Changing Face of Slavery**

10/21 Reading: Walter Johnson, **Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market** Stokes & Conway, eds., **The Market Revolution in America: Social, Political, and Religious Expressions**, chapters 2, 8

Article:

Edward E. Baptist, "Cuffy, Fancy Maids, and One-Eyed Men: Rape, Commodification, and the Domestic Slave Trade in the United States," *American Historical Review*, 106 (2001), 1619-1650 *JSTOR*

Week 10 **Workers: The People Who Built the Transportation Infrastructure**

10/28 Reading: Peter Way, **Common Labor: Workers and the Digging of North American Canals** Stokes & Conway, eds., **The Market Revolution in America: Social, Political, and Religious Expressions**, chapter 4

Week 11 Research / Writing Week
11/4

Week 12 Research / Writing Week
11/11

Critique of Dr. O'Brien's paper draft due.

Week 13 Research / Writing Week
11/18

November 25: No Class: Thanksgiving

Week 14 **Paper Due by 5:00 p.m.**
12/2