

HIS 723: Topics in 19th Century American History
Spring 2017
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 and topics 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.

The learning outcomes for this course are that through these readings and written assignments you will be able to define the Market Revolution, explain the diverse manifestations of the Market Revolution, and understand the crucial place of the Market Revolution in American History.

Required Books (in the order that you will read them):

John Lauritz Larson, **The Market Revolution in America: Liberty, Ambition, and the Eclipse of the Common Good** (2010)

Theodore Steinberg, **Nature Incorporated: Industrialization and the Waters of New England** (1994)

Bruce Dorsey, **Reforming Men and Women: Gender in the Antebellum City** (2006)

Paul E. Johnson & Sean Wilentz, **The Kingdom of Matthias: A Story of Sex and Salvation in 19th-Century America** (2005)

Theda Perdue and Michael Green, **The Cherokee Nation and the Trail of Tears** (2008)

Edward Baptist, **The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism** (2015)

Brian Delay, **War of a Thousand Deserts: Indian Raids and the U.S.-Mexican War** (2009)

Recommended Book:

Harry Watson, **Liberty and Power: The Politics of Jacksonian America**, 2nd Edition (2006)

Assignments:

Besides reading a book and articles each week and discussing them in class, you will turn in a written review for four of the assigned books. In addition, one week you will lead discussion of that week's entire readings in class. Class discussion is central to this course and will form a significant part of your grade. Finally, you will write 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 for four of your assigned weekly books. 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 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.

Research or Historiographical Paper:

In consultation with me, you will identify a topic related to the era of the Market Revolution to write a research or historiographical paper. Your proposed topic is due by February 13, The bibliography is due by March 6, and the final paper is due by May 1. Your paper must have a title page. You must use footnotes or endnotes (your choice) but follow the Chicago Manual of Style Humanities format. Links to Chicago style manual are here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html . The length is about 15-20 pages of text (not counting title page, notes, and bibliography). Take advantage of the free help that the Writing Center offers to all UNCG students: <https://writingcenter.uncg.edu/>

Grading:

Written Reviews (4):	10% each	40%
Discussion Leadership		10%
Discussion Participation		20%
Final Paper		<u>30%</u>
		100%

Schedule:

Unless noted, all 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
1/23

Introduction

Week 2
1/30

What is the Market Revolution?

Reading: Larson, **The Market Revolution in America**

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*

Two reviews of Sean Wilentz's book *The Rise of American Democracy*:

1. By Eric Foner in *The Nation*, October 31, 2005

(<http://www.ericfoner.com/reviews/103105nation.html>)

2. By Gordon Wood, *The New York Times*, November 13, 2005

(<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/13/books/review/13wood.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>)

See also the 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 3
2/6

Environmental Roots of Industrialization

Reading: Steinberg, **Nature Incorporated**

Article: Grettler, David J. "The Nature of Capitalism: Environmental Change and Conflict over Commercial Fishing in Nineteenth-Century Delaware." *Environmental History* 6, no. 3 (2001): 451-73.

Week 4

TOPIC FOR RESEARCH OR HISTORIOGRAPHICAL PAPER DUE

2/13

Reform Movements & Cities (considered with gender, race, and class)

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

Articles:

1. Rockman, Seth. "Women's Labor, Gender Ideology, and Working-Class

Households in Early Republic Baltimore." *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies* 66 (1999): 174-200.

2. 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 5
2/20

Religious Ferment

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

Article:

Hatch, Nathan O. "TANNER LECTURE: Mormon and Methodist: Popular Religion in the Crucible of the Free Market." *Journal of Mormon History* 20, no. 1 (1994): 24-44.

Week 6
2/27

Indian Removal

Reading: Perdue and Green, **The Cherokee Nation and the Trail of Tears**

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 7

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCES FOR PAPER DUE

3/6

The Market Revolution of Slavery

Reading: Edward Baptist, **The Half Has Never Been Told**

Article:

Ford, Lacy K. "Making the 'White Man's Country' White: Race, Slavery, and State-Building in the Jacksonian South." *Journal of the Early Republic* 19, no. 4 (1999): 713-37.

Week 8
3/13

NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

Week 9
3/20

Empire and Borderlands

Reading: Delay, **War of a Thousand Deserts**

Articles:

1. Rothman, Joshua D. "The Hazards of the Flush Times: Gambling, Mob

Violence, and the Anxieties of America's Market Revolution." *The Journal of American History* 95, no. 3 (2008): 651-77

2. Isenberg, Andrew C. "The Market Revolution in the Borderlands: George Champlin Sibley in Missouri and New Mexico, 1808-1826." *Journal of the Early Republic* 21, no. 3 (2001): 445-65.

- Week 10 Research / Writing Week
3/27 *During these research and writing weeks, you must schedule a meeting with me at least once to report on your research progress.
- Week 11 Research / Writing Week
4/3
- Week 12 Research / Writing Week
4/10
- Week 13 Research / Writing Week
4/17
- Week 14 Research / Writing Week
4/24
- Week 15 **Paper Due by 5:00 p.m.**
5/1