The Literature of American History I: to 1865

Topics and Readings:

I. Colonial Encounters, Exchanges and Empires

Required:

Recommended:
David Armitage and Michael Braddick, eds. The British Atlantic World, 1500-1800, 2nd ed. (2009)
Christine Daniels and Michael V. Kennedy, eds. Negotiated Empires: Centers and Peripheries in the Americas, 1500-1820 (2002)
Elizabeth Mancke and Carole Shammas, eds. The Creation of the British Atlantic World (2005)

II. Natives and Newcomers in North America

Required:
Daniel Richter, Facing East from Indian Country: a Native History of Early America (2001)

Recommended:
Gail MacLeitch, Imperial Entanglements: Iroquois Change and Persistence on the Frontiers of Empire (2013)
_____., Before the Revolution: America’s Ancient Past (2011)
Peter Silver, Our Savage Neighbors: How Indian War Transformed Early America (2009)
Christina Snyder, Slavery in Indian Country: the Changing Face of Captivity in Early America (2010)
Cynthia Van Zandt, Brothers Among Nations: the Pursuit of Intercultural Alliances in Early America, 1580-1660 (2008)
Michael Witgen, An Infinity of Nations: How the Native New World Shaped Early America (2011)

III. Colonial Societies and Cultures: European Settlers on the East Coast

Required:

Recommended:
Francis Bremer, John Davenport: a Puritan in Three Worlds (2012)
IV. Africans and the Americas: Slavery in the Atlantic World

**Required:**
Stephanie Smallwood, Saltwater Slavery: a Middle Passage from Africa to American Diaspora (2007)

**Recommended:**
Alan Gally, ed. Indian Slavery in Colonial America (2010)
Russell Menard, Migrants, Servants and Slaves: Unfree Labor in Colonial British America (2001)
Kenneth Morgan, Slavery and Servitude in Colonial North America: a Short History (2001)

V. Colonials, Commerce and Culture: The Creation of Eighteenth-Century British North America

**Required:**
Jon Butler, Becoming America: the Revolution before 1776 (2001)

**Recommended:**
Kate Haulman, The Politics of Fashion in Eighteenth-Century America (2011)
Peter Hoffer, Sensory Worlds in Early America (2003)
Mary Beth Norton, Separated by Their Sex: Women in Public and Private in the Colonial Atlantic World (2011)
Robert Olwell and Alan Tully, eds. Cultures and Identities in Colonial British America (2006)
Owen Stanwood, The Empire Reformed: English America in the Age of the Glorious Revolution (2011)
VI. Resistance, Rebellion and Revolution: the Unmaking of British North America
Required:
Brendan McConville, The King’s Three Faces: the Rise and Fall of Royal America, 1688-1776 (2006)

Recommended:
Benjamin Carp, Defiance of the Patriots: the Boston Tea Party and the Making of America (2010)
Douglas Egerton, Death or Liberty: African Americans and Revolutionary America (2009)
Benjamin Irvin, Clothed in Robes of Sovereignty: the Continental Congress and the People Out of Doors (2011)
Sarah Knott, Sensibility and the American Revolution (2009)
Ellen Hartigan-O’Connor, The Ties that Buy: Women and Commerce in Revolutionary America (2009)
Eran Shalev, Rome Reborn on Western Shores: Historical Imagination and the Creation of the American Republic (2009)
Kariann Yokota, Unbecoming British: How Revolutionary America became a Postcolonial Nation (2010)

VII. Novus Ordo Seclorum?
Required:

Recommended:
Seth Cotlar, Tom Paine's America: the Rise and Fall of Transatlantic Radicalism in the Early Republic (2011)

VIII. Democratic Vistas
Required:

Recommended:
Robin Einhorn, American Taxation, American Slavery (2006)
Ronald P. Formisano, For the People: American Populist Movements from the Revolution to the 1850s (2008)
Stephen Harnett, Democratic Dissent and the Cultural Fictions of Antebellum America (2002)
Roger G. Kennedy, Mr. Jefferson’s Lost Cause: Land, Farmers, Slavery and the Louisiana Purchase (2003)
Mark Lause, Young America: Land, Labor, and the Republican Community (2005)
Samuel J. Watson, Peacekeepers and Conquerors: the Army Officer Corps on the American Frontier, 1821-1846 (2013)

IX. Property and Power in Antebellum America

Required:
Wilentz, The Rise of American Democracy [chaps. 17-25, Epilogue]


Recommended:
David Jaffee, A New Nation of Goods: the Material Culture of Early America (2011)
Steven Mihm, A Nation of Counterfeiters: Capitalists, Con Men and the Making of the United States (2007)
Sharon Murphy, Investing in Life: Insurance in Antebellum America (2010)

X. Notions of the (Antebellum) Americans

Required:
Howe, What Hath God Wrought [chaps. 12-20, Finale]

Recommended:
James E. Block, A Nation of Agents: the American Path to a Modern Self and Society (2002)
Carolyn Eastman, A Nation of Speechifiers: Making an American Public After the Revolution (2009)
Timothy Mason, Distant Revolutions: 1848 and the Challenge to American Exceptionalism (2009)
Benjamin Reiss, The Showman and the Slave: Race, Death and Memory in Barnum’s America (2001)
Elisa Tamarkin, Anglophilia: Deference, Devotion and Antebellum America (2008)
IX. The Anomalies of American Slavery

**Required:**
David Brion Davis, Inhuman Bondage: the Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World (2006)

**Recommended:**
Steven Doyle, Carry Me Back: the Domestic Slave Trade in American Life (2005)
Lacy K. Ford, Deliver Us from Evil: the Slavery Question in the Old South (2009)
Walter Johnson, River of Dark Dreams: Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom (2013)
Calvin Schemerhorn, Money Over Mastery, Family over Freedom: Slavery in the Antebellum Upper South (2011)
Steven Woodworth, Manifest Destinies: America's Westward Expansion and the Road to the Civil War (2010)

XII. American Armageddon: the End of the First Republic

**Required:**

**Recommended:**
Adam Arenson, The Great Heart of the Republic: St. Louis and the Cultural Civil War (2011)
John Ashworth, The Republic in Crisis, 1848-1861 (2012)
David Blight, Race and Reunion: the Civil War in American Memory (2001)
Gary Gallagher, Becoming Confederates: Paths to a New National Loyalty (2013)
Nicholas Onuf and Peter Onuf, Nations, Markets, and War: Modern History and the American Civil War (2006)

**Assignments:**

August 28: Organizational Meeting
September 4: No class meeting. CUNY closed.
September 11: Elliott
September 18: Richter
September 25: Merwick
October 2: Smallwood
October 9: Butler
October 16: McConville
October 23: Wood
October 30: Wilentz [chaps. 1-16]
November 6: Wilentz [chaps. 17-25, Epilogue]; Howe [chaps. 1-11]
November 13: Howe [chaps. 12-20, Finale]
November 20: Davis
November 27: No class meeting. Classes follow a Friday schedule.
December 4: Faust
December 11: Conspectus and Conclusion.

In addition to the assigned readings, course requirements include weekly short papers and a final examination. Expectations and guidelines for the essays and the examination will be provided in separate handouts. The questions for the final will be distributed at the last meeting of class; the completed examinations will be due by the end of the examination period.