

**History 303: Early American Republic, 1787-1848**  
**Fall 2007, TR 1:00 am - 2:15 pm**

This course focuses on the early development of the United States. Special attention will be given to politics, economics, and war, as well as to a number of religious and social movements that characterized post-revolutionary America

Instructor: Dr. Christopher Young

Office: Tamarack 16

Phone: 219-980-6661

Email: [cjy@iun.edu](mailto:cjy@iun.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00–11:00 and by appointment

Website: [www.iun.edu/~histcjy](http://www.iun.edu/~histcjy)

**Assigned Readings**

Joseph J. Ellis, Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation (New York: Vintage Books, 2000). Copy on Reserve.

Donald R. Hickey, The War of 1812: A Short History (Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 1995). Copy on Reserve.

Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle” (1819) Available on ERIS—Electronic Reserve.

Louis P. Masur, 1831: Year of Eclipse (New York: Hill and Wang, 2002). Copy on Reserve.

David Curtis Skaggs and Larry L. Nelson, eds., The Sixty Years’ War for the Great Lakes, 1754-1814 (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2001). Selections available on ERIS-Electronic Reserve.

Sean Wilentz, ed., Major Problems in the Early Republic, 1787-1848 (Lexington, Massachusetts: D. C. Heath and Company, 1992). Copy on Reserve.

**Grade Breakdown**

Exams	40%
Short Analyses	10%
Book Reviews	40%
Participation/Quizzes	10%

Or

Exams	40%
Short Analyses	10%
Book Review	20%
Paper	20%
Participation/Quizzes	10%

### **A Note on Quizzes, Participation, and Attendance**

Quizzes will be given at the discretion of the instructor. Missed Quizzes *and* analyses cannot be made up, unless the student's absence has been excused.

The instructor of the class will determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused. Partial attendance of a class will be considered as an unexcused absence.

The class participation portion of the grade is based on effort (e.g. attending class, coming to class prepared and on time, participating in class discussions).

### **Writing Assignments**

There are three types of writing assignments for this course. The first type will consist of a number of short analyses of the assigned reading—especially the primary documents. The instructor will assign these during the course of a class session. The second type of writing assignment will be a book review. The third type will be a short paper about an event that took place or a person who lived during the Early Republic. The student will be able to either write two book reviews or one book review and one short paper. Details regarding the writing assignments will be provided in a separate handout.

### **Course Calendar**

**August 28:** Introduction

Syllabus, ERIS, Benjamin Rush's dream (handout)

### ***FOUNDING A NATION***

**August 30:** Gordon S. Wood, "The Significance of the Early Republic"; Clinton L. Rossiter, "Nationalism and American Identity in the Early Republic"

**September 4:** Joseph Ellis, "The Generation"

**September 6:** The U.S. Constitution and Federalist Ascendency, MP 24-33

**September 11:** Joseph Ellis, "The Duel"

**September 13:** Joseph Ellis, "The Silence"

**September 18:** Race in the Early Republic, MP 116, 122-128

**September 20:** Gender in the Early Republic, MP 118-122

### **COMPETING VISIONS AND POSTREVOLUTIONARY POLITICS**

**September 25:** The Political Crisis of the 1790s, MP 62-74

**September 27:** Richard Hofstadter, "Jefferson as Cautious Pragmatic" MP 102-106  
Forrest McDonald, "Jefferson as Reactionary Ideologue" MP 106-109  
Drew McCoy, "Jefferson and the Empire of Liberty" MP 109-114  
Thomas Jefferson and the American Indians, MP 130-133

**October 2:** The Republican Jefferson and the Jeffersonian Republic, MP 90-101

**October 4: Review for Exam**

**October 9: Midterm Exam**

**A SECOND WAR OF INDEPENDENCE?**

**October 11:** Elizabeth A. Perkins, “War as Cultural Encounter in the Ohio Valley”  
E. Jane Errington, “Reluctant Warriors: British North Americans and the War of 1812”  
R. David Edmunds, “Forgotten Allies: The Loyal Shawnees and the War of 1812”  
All three articles are from The Sixty Years’ War for the Great Lakes, 1754-1814 (ERIS-Electronic Reserve)

**October 16: Due: Review of Hickey, War of 1812: A Short History**

A NEW GENERATION, A NEW AMERICA: LOOKING INWARD

**October 18:** The Era of Bad Feelings, MP 333-341; The Rise of Northern Capitalism, MP 191-197, 200-202

**October 23:** Jacksonian Era Politics, MP, 341-350, 372-374, 376-379, 391, 393-395; Washington Irving, “Rip Van Winkle” Available on ERIS—Electronic Reserve.

**October 25:** Reforms in Conflict, MP 423, 425-442

**October 30:** Individual Conferences

**November 1:** Religion and Politics, Louis P. Masur, 1831, 63-114

**November 6:** State and Nation, Louis P. Masur, 1831, 115-144

**November 8:** State and Nation, Louis P. Masur, 1831, 144-168

**SLAVERY: THE SILENCE HAS BEEN BROKEN**

**November 13:** Slavery and Abolition, Louis P. Masur, 1831, 3-47

**November 15:** Slavery and Abolition, Louis P. Masur, 1831, 48-62; The Slaveholders' Regime, MP 238-253

**November 20:** Antiabolitionism, and Proslavery, MP 471-496

**November 22: Thanksgiving. No Class.**

**November 27:** The Slaveholders' Regime, MP 253-263; **Due: Review of Masur’s 1831**

MANIFEST DESTINY AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF EXPANSION

**November 29:** Struggles for the West, MP, 296-302; View documentary, *Donner Party*

**December 4:** Struggles for the West, MP 374-376, 288-296, 302-303

**December 6:** The Bitter Fruits of Manifest Destiny, MP 523-551; **Review for Exam**

**December 11: Final Exam**

The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus. Students will be informed of any changes.