

Fall 2006: History 4085
American Intellectual and Cultural History to 1865
Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm
Location: LeConte Hall, Room 321

Professor Stephen Mihm
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Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30--5:00 pm and Thursday, 4:30--5:00 pm

Course Description: This seminar surveys the intellectual and cultural history of the United States from its colonial origins up to the Civil War. We'll study the ideas, philosophies, religious beliefs, art, literature, popular culture, entertainment, artifacts, and everyday habits of Americans who lived during this time. Several interrelated themes structure this course: the changing relationship between "high" and "low" culture; the evolution of thinking about representative democracy and government; the recurrent national quest for distinctly "American" forms of intellectual and cultural expression; and the role of religion in shaping American thought.

Students should leave the class with an appreciation of the country's intellectual and cultural history. Students should also come away with an understanding of how ideas and culture have played a role in the economic, political, and social development of the United States. Finally, students should leave the class with an improved ability to read critically, write analytically, and speak clearly. Classes will take the form of a modified seminar, meaning that students will spend equal time discussing the readings and listening to lectures.

Course Readings: The course is rooted in two collections of primary sources available (if you're lucky) at the University of Georgia Bookstore across from the Tate Center. You may have better luck at either branch of the Off Campus Bookstore at 360 and 696 Baxter Street. Wherever you go, buy the following: David A. Hollinger and Charles Capper, eds., *The American Intellectual Tradition: Volume I: 1630-1865* (2001) and Eve Kornfeld, ed., *Creating an American Culture: 1775-1800. A Brief History with Documents* (2001). A separate collection of primary source materials is available at Bel-Jean Copy Center at 163 East Broad Street. You will need to visit Bel-Jean to purchase this course packet. To get there, exit through the arch on the North Campus, cross Broad Street, take a left, and walk half a block. Please review the course packet before purchasing it to confirm that the copies are legible and complete.

Course Requirements: This is a reading-intensive course. Students who foresee having difficulty with this requirement should not take this class. Students who may have trouble meeting the other demands of the course – as listed below – should not take the class, either. Please note that all course requirements are subject to change at the professor’s discretion.

Attendance and Participation: Regular attendance is mandatory, and you are expected to be on time. Any absence for any reason (except in-patient hospitalization and documented emergencies) beyond three will be penalized as follows: miss four classes, and your final grade will drop by a third of a letter grade; miss five classes, and your final grade will drop by two thirds of a letter grade; miss six, and your final grade will drop by an entire letter grade; and so forth. The foregoing policy becomes effective on August 29. Coming late to class will also be penalized, with three tardy arrivals counting as one absence. Class participation will be evaluated on the basis of coming to class having done the reading *and* coming to class having thought about what you’ve read. Most important of all, you must contribute to class discussions in a polite, informed, and articulate manner. Students are responsible for all material covered in any classes they miss. Students who come late to class on a regular basis will be dropped from the course (see below for details).

Read and Respond: Two times over the course of the semester, students will be required to turn in a two-page, double-spaced, typed response (approximately 600 words) to the assigned reading for the week. These are due at the beginning of class on August 29 and September 28. Late papers will be penalized a letter grade for every day they are late. Papers not completed will count as an “F” and carry extra weight in the final determination of your grade. In the unlikely event that not everyone does the reading, there will be additional assignments of this sort.

Formal Paper: One formal paper of approximately 3000 words (about 10 pages typed and double-spaced) is due at the beginning of class on December 5. Extensions will be granted only for family emergencies or circumstances of comparable seriousness. Otherwise, late papers will be penalized a letter grade for every day they are late. Students who do not complete the formal paper will fail the class. Papers will be graded on the basis of the clarity of the writing, the originality of the thought, and the care (or lack thereof) of the presentation. Misspellings will lower your grade.

Exams: There will be two in-class exams: a mid-term on October 19 and a final on December tk. Both will require students to review, synthesize, and analyze readings, lectures, and discussions, and will consist of a combination of short-answer and essay questions. Students who miss an exam will be expected to make it up by writing a separate 25 page paper (approximately 7000-8000 words) with footnotes. I will choose the topic of the paper, but rest assured that it will involve reading another book (a primary source) as well as doing research in the library. Students who miss an exam and then fail to write this paper will receive an “F” for that exam.

Grading: Your final grade will be calculated on the following basis: 20% for Participation; 20% for the “Read and Respond” Papers; 20% for the Formal Paper; 20% for the Midterm; and 20% for the Final. Please note that how I weigh your grade is subject to change. Please note as well that I reserve the right to withdraw you from the course without warning. Non-attendance is the most common reason that I drop students from my class. Don’t tempt me.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: Don’t plagiarize. Any student who turns in an assignment or exam that is in any way an infringement of the University’s Academic Honesty Code will have their case referred to the Academic Honesty Office in the Office of the Vice President of Instruction. You are responsible for determining what is and what is not plagiarism, and you are expected to review “A Culture of Honesty” and the details of the Academic Honesty Policy online at the following website: www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/academic_honesty.htm. You may also find it useful to consult www.isd.uga.edu/teaching_resources/academic/#plagiarism.

Class and Office Hours: We will meet from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. My office hours are on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:00 and Thursday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:00 pm. If you cannot make this time, see me about setting up an appointment. I strongly encourage everyone to stop by at least once over the course of the semester. Students who find themselves having trouble in the course should see me immediately *and* should visit the Division of Academic Enhancement (details are available at www.uga.edu/dae).

Course Schedule

Week 1: Overview of Semester

August 17 Overview of Semester

Week 2: First Cultures, First Encounters

August 22 Reading: Course Packet, "Early American Writings," pp. 1-8, 16-28.

August 24 Reading: Course Packet, "Early American Writings," pp. 123-139, 150-158.

Week 3: British Colonization and Puritanism

August 29 Reading: Hollinger and Capper, *American Intellectual Tradition*, pp. 3-38;
Assignment: Read and Respond Paper No. 1 due at the beginning of class.

August 31 Reading: Course Packet, "The Puritans," pp. 411-413, 573, 585-591, 602-607.

Week 4: Revivals, Awakenings, Apparitions

September 5 Reading: Hollinger and Capper, *American Intellectual Tradition*, pp. 62-74;
Course Packet, Jonathan Edwards, "Personal Narrative," pp. 668-676 and
Charles Chauncy, "Enthusiasm Described and Caution'd Against," pp. 688-697.

September 7 Course Packet: "Witch-Hunting in...New England," pp. 265-314.

Week 5: Material Culture, Fine Art, and Everyday Life

September 12 Reading: Course Packet, "Itinerarium of Dr. Alexander Hamilton," pp. 173-200.

September 14 Reading: Course Packet, "Itinerarium of Dr. Alexander Hamilton," pp. 201-214.

Week 6: Revolutionary Ideas and Consequences

September 19 Reading: Hollinger and Capper, *American Intellectual Tradition*, pp. 99-136.

September 21 Reading: Course Packet, "The Declaration of Independence" and "Jefferson's
Draft with Revisions"; Course Packet, Kammen, "The Origin of the American
Constitution," pp. vii-xxiii, 3-18.

Week 7: The Making of the Constitution

- September 26 Reading: Course Packet, Kammen, "Origin of the American Constitution," pp. 19-25, 38-50, 126-130.
- September 28 Reading: Course Packet, Kammen, "Origin of the American Constitution," pp. 145-152, 186-193, 202-206, 379-384. Assignment: Read and Respond Paper No. 2 due at the beginning of class.

Week 8: Creating an American Culture

- October 3 Reading: Kornfeld, *Creating an American Culture*, pp. 3-38, 83-88, 102-107, 110-119, 127-132.
- October 5 Reading: Kornfeld, *Creating an American Culture*, pp. 54-65, 189-244.

Week 9: Religion in the Early Republic

- October 10 Reading: Hollinger and Capper, *American Intellectual Tradition*, pp. 213-252.
- October 12 Reading: Course Packet, Trollope, "Domestic Manners," pp. 84-90, 126-132.

Week 10: Mid-Term Exam

- October 17 Reading: None. Review for Mid-Term.
- October 19 Reading: None. Mid-Term Exam

Week 11: Slavery and Antislavery I

- October 24 Reading: Hollinger and Capper, *American Intellectual Tradition*, pp. 253-267.
- October 26 Fall Break. No class.

Week 12: Slavery and Antislavery II

- October 31 Reading: Hollinger and Capper, *American Intellectual Tradition*, 447-456, 470-512.
- November 2 Course Packet, Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, pp. 577-93; Course Packet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "Poems," pp. 460-463

Week 13: Reformers, Utopians, and Radicals

- November 7 Reading: Course Packet, Kerber, ed., "Women's America," pp. 567-570; Course Packet, "The Quest for New Social Harmonies," pp. 441-452; Hollinger and Capper, *American Intellectual Tradition*, pp. 384-402.
- November 9 Reading: Course Packet: Timothy Shays Arthur, "Ten Nights in a Barroom.," pp. 1-36; Course Packet, David Shi, "In Search of the Simple Life," pp. 70-76.

Week 14: Popular Culture and Entertainment

- November 14 Reading: Course Packet, Barnum, "Struggles and Triumphs," pp. 79-146.
- November 16 Reading: Course Packet, Barnum, "Struggles and Triumphs," pp. 170-212.

Week 15: The American Renaissance I

- November 21 Reading: Hollinger and Capper, *American Intellectual Tradition*, pp. 341-368.
- November 23 Thanksgiving Break. No class. Reading: Course Packet: David Shi, "In Search of the Simple Life," pp. 149-159; Course Packet, Thoreau, "Walden" pp. 187-197; Course Packet, Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The Transcendentalist," pp. 92-110.

Week 16: The American Renaissance II

- November 28 Reading: Hollinger and Capper, *American Intellectual Tradition*, pp. 428-439.
- November 30 Reading: Course Packet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "Poems," pp. 275-279; Course Packet, Edgar Allan Poe, "Mesmeric Revelation," pp. 88-95, "The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar," pp. 96-103; Course Packet, Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener," pp. 3-46; Course Packet, Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown," pp. 276-289; Course Packet, Walt Whitman, "Song of Myself," pp. 32-39.

Week 17: Summary and Final Review

- December 5 Reading: None. Assignment: Formal Paper due at the beginning of class.

Week 18: Final Exam

- December 14 Final Exam, 7:00-10:00 pm