

**Course Syllabus: Jacksonian America 1815-1848/History 5310: 001**

**Fall 2016-Dr. Mark Saad Saka/Sul Ross State University**

**Office Hours: Lawrence Hall 208/ 5:00-6:00 Mondays/ 10:00-12:00, M, W, F**

**432-837-8304/ Office Hours can also be made with an appointment**

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**Course Objectives:**

The era historians refer to as “Jacksonian America” encompasses a critical era in the history of the Early Republic and the United States. In many ways, it represents the first generation of Americans who were not born under British colonial rule (Andrew Jackson aside, his successor Martin Van Buren was born in the United States after independence) and the first generation to create a unique American identity and culture.

This is not a course on Andrew Jackson per se, although you cannot discuss the era without reference too, and an in-depth look at the person himself. The term “Jacksonian America,” “Jacksonian Democracy,” or the “Jacksonian Era” obviously associate with the president who emerged from the War of 1812 as a national military figure and served as president from 1828-1836. But this course covers a multitude of themes and events that characterize the first half of the nineteenth century. This was an era of tremendous economic and technological change associated with the manufacturing and marketing revolutions, steam engines and textile mills, religious ferment associated with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Awakening and moral crusades, utopian socialism and grand experiments, westward expansion, mass violence and expulsion of Native Americans, war (with Mexico), and a race to the Pacific Northwest. It also encompasses radical political change and the expansion of the concept of democracy (albeit limited in the modern sense of the word, representing a Herrenvolk democracy) and the rise of the “common man.” Mass immigration and ethnic conflict mark much of the era as largescale European migration from Ireland, Scandinavia, Germany, and England). In cultural and literary terms, this is an era of the American literary renaissance and the growth of an American identity and culture.

So why is this era encompassing more than three decades referred to Jacksonian America? These are topics we will discuss in the class. But needless to say, this is a critical and exciting era in American history, it encompasses the “good, the bad, and the ugly.”

**Required Readings:**

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, (there are various editions of this book published over the years, including its availability for a dollar on Kindle), 1969, Harper-Perennial, 0-06-091522-6

Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*, Oxford University Press, 2009, ISBN # 978-0195392432

**Course Requirements:**

This course covers a number of requirements.

**First**, regular attendance, this is a seminar which requires participation and regular attendance. Punctuality is also needed, as this course begins at 6:00.

**Second**, readings, there are a number of required readings, you are expected to keep up with the weekly readings from the textbook (Daniel Howe's *What Hath God Wrought*) as well as selected readings from the classic *Democracy in America*.

**Third**, you will be required to write one research paper over a critical topic for the Jacksonian era? The research topic must be approved by me but should be one that you feel passionate about. The research paper should utilize three sources other than the required readings, be from 15 to 20 pages, 12 fonts, and one inch margins and utilize endnotes.

**Fourth**, you must present your paper topic in a twenty-to-thirty-minute classroom presentation. **You may not use power-point! It should be presented as a lecture.**

**Course Outline:**

August 22-intro to course/historiography of era/major themes for the Jacksonian Era.

August 29-Jeffersonian America and War of 1812, (1800-1816) (Read Howe pages 1-90) (Tocqueville Volume II; Part I)

**Sept. 5-labor day no class**

Sept 12- The Rise of Jacksonian Politics, (1816-1828) (Read Howe pages 91-163) (Tocqueville Volume II Part II).

Sept. 19-The Awakenings of Religion, (Howe pages 164-202 and 446-482) (Read Tocqueville pages 287-301, Volume II Part III)

Sept 26-The Manufacturing Revolution, (Howe pages 203-284) (Tocqueville Volume II Part IV)

Oct. 03-The Marketing Revolution, (Howe pages 525-569)

Oct 10-The Search for Utopia and a New Millennium (Howe pages 285-327)

Oct.03- Politics during Jacksonian Presidency (the Bank War, the Nullification Crisis, the Panic of 1837, Martin Van Buren, the election of 1840) (Read Howe pages 328-524)

Oct. 10-"Indian Removal and the Trail of Tears." Immigration and Ethnic Conflict. (Howe pages 328-524) (Read Tocqueville pages 316-394)

Oct. 31-The 1840s the Rise and Fall of the Whig Party (Howe pages 570-612)

Nov. 07-Literary Renaissance (Howe pages 613-657)

Nov. 14-Westward Expansion and Texas (pages 658-700)

Nov. 21-westward expansion and the war with Mexico (the Pacific Northwest) (pages 701-855)

Nov. 28.-presentations

Dec. 05-presentations

December 7-papers due

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### **Potential Research Topics**

The Manufacturing Revolution

The Marketing Revolution

“Jacksonian Democracy”

The Panic of 1819

The Panic of 1837

The American Whig Party

The Anti-Mason Party

Indian Removal and the Trail of Tears

The Bank War

The Nullification Crisis

The Second Great Awakening

The Utopian Movements

The Latter Day Saints (the Mormons)

Texas

The U.S. Mexico War

The Pacific Northwest

Immigration and Ethnic Conflict