Liberty and Power, Democracy and Slavery in Jacksonian America

Note: The official, up-to-date version of the course syllabus is maintained online at http://www.oberlin.edu/history/GJK/H323S06.

This course explores the cultural dynamics, social relations, and political structures that shaped the lives of ordinary Americans -- black and white, male and female, rich and poor, urban and rural, native born and immigrant, Indian and other -- between approximately 1820 and 1850. Emphasis will be placed on current scholarly debates and different approaches to historical analysis. Student participation in class discussions (both online and face-to-face) is essential to the success of the course.

Format: The class meets regularly on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:50 p.m. Class attendance is mandatory. Active participation in class discussions is expected, and students are also required to post a question or comment on Blackboard in advance of each class session.

Evaluation: Students will be graded on the basis of class participation and two analytical essays (8-10 pages each). The basic formula is 1/3 for class participation (including postings on Blackboard), 1/3 for the first essay, and 1/3 for the second essay. The professor reserves the right to exercise some discretion in assigning final grades.

Honor Code: All course work is governed by Oberlin's Honor Code. If you have a question about how the Honor Code applies to a particular assignment, you should ask the professor in advance of the due date.

Purchases: The following books are available for purchase at the Oberlin Bookstore. Most are also on reserve at Mudd, but the professor strongly encourages you to acquire your own copies.

- Eugene D. Genovese, Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made (New
York: Pantheon, 1974)

### Schedule of classes and assignments:

**Feb. 7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alexis de Tocqueville</th>
<th>The Classic Interpretation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tocqueville Society website</td>
<td>For information on Tocqueville's American travels and sources, go to <strong>Tocqueville's America: A Virtual Tour on the web</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Feb. 14**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joseph Moore and His Family (1839)</th>
<th>A Recent Synthesis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sellers, <em>Market Revolution</em>, 3-33, 202-395</strong></td>
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**Feb. 21**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joseph Moore and His Family (1839)</th>
<th>Rural New England</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Christopher Clark, <em>The Roots of Rural Capitalism: Western Massachusetts, 1780-1860</em> (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1990), 121-155, 195-227 [on reserve and on ERes]</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td>*<em>Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, <em>The Age of</em></em></td>
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Feb. 28

**Urban New England**


March 7

**Upstate New York**

- Johnson, *Shopkeeper's Millennium*, entire
- Charles Grandison Finney, "What a Revival of Religion Is" (1835)
### March 14

**New York City**

- Christine Stansell, *City of Women: Sex and Class in New York City, 1789-1860* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986), 41-75 [on reserve and on ERes]
- For a virtual field trip to P.T. Barnum's American Museum, visit [The Lost Museum](http://www.thelostmuseum.com) on the web

### March 21

**Philadelphia**


### March 25

**First paper due**

### Spring Break

### April 4

**Rural South**

- **Recommended primary document:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
  - Wells, Origins of the Southern Middle Class, 1800-1861, 1-150  
| April 18 | South Carolina Low Country (I) |  - Joyner, Down by the Riverside, xv-xxii, 1-224, 241-242  
  - Recommended primary document: Frederick Law Olmsted, A Journey in the Seaboard Slave States (1856), 462-488 (scroll down) |
| April 25 | South Carolina Low Country (II) |  - McCurry, Masters of Small Worlds, xvi-ix, 2-207, 239-276  
| May 2   | New Orleans               |  - Johnson, Soul by Soul, entire  
  - Recommended primary document: |
Solomon Northrup, *Twelve Years a Slave* (1853), 78-82, posted online as "'It Was a Mournful Scene Indeed': Solomon Northrup Remembers the New Orleans Slave Market" at http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6230/

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<tr>
<th>May 9</th>
<th>Cherokee Nation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Recommended primary document: <em>Constitution of the Cherokee Nation</em> (1827)</td>
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| May 20 | Second paper due by 11 am |