INDEPENDENT STUDY:
AGE OF JACKSON
HIST 5345 – SPRING 2014

CONTACT INFORMATION:

PROFESSOR: Brad Cartwright, Ph.D.
EMAIL: bjccartwright@utep.edu
OFFICE: LART 333, ext. 7051
OFFICE HOURS: MWF: 10:30-12:15 and by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This independent studies course surveys the historical literature on American politics, economics, and culture from the end of the War of 1812 to 1850. These years represent a period of intense change in America. Revolutions in transportation, communications, and markets stimulated enormous economic growth. Religious movements inspired people to radically reform their society. As more white men got the right to vote, women and non-whites increasingly began to demand equal rights for themselves. These decades also witnessed hardening racial perspectives, the growth of the institution of slavery, and the forceful removal of Native Americans from their native lands. Lastly, by the late 1840s, America’s Manifest Destiny to expand westward led to a controversial and costly war with Mexico. Upon completing the course, each student will have written several book reviews and a 15-page historiographical essay.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

- Brian Delay, War of a Thousand Deserts: Indian Raids and the U.S.-Mexican War (0300158378)
- Amy Greenberg, A Wicked War: Polk, Clay, Lincoln, and the 1846 U.S. Invasion of Mexico (0307475999)
- Reginald Horsman, Race and Manifest Destiny: Origins of American Racial Anglo-Saxonism (067494805X)
- Daniel Walker Howe, What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848 (0195392434)
- Susan Johnson, Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush (0393320995)
- Walter Johnson, Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market (0674005392)
- Robert Remini, Andrew Jackson (0060801328)
- Charles Sellers, The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846 (0195089200)
- Carol Sheriff, The Artificial River: The Erie Canal and the Paradox of Progress, 1817-1862 (0809016052)
- Alan Taylor, The Civil War of 1812: American Citizens, British Subjects, Irish Rebels, & Indian Allies (0679776737)
- Harry Watson, Liberty and Power: The Politics of Jacksonian America (0809065479)
**Course Requirements:**

- **Course Participation** (20%): Because this is an independent studies course, we will meet face to face infrequently. Thus, to ensure that you are reading and comprehending the assigned books, you are expected to submit a weekly “ticket to class” via email. This assignment must answer each of the following questions and each individual answer must be at least 100 words in length. You do not need to submit a ticket to class on weeks that you complete a book review.
  
  - What is the book’s primary argument?
  - How is the book organized?
  - What types of sources does the author use to support their interpretations?
  - Select one quote that you find particularly controversial, unclear, or significant. Explain.
  - What are the book’s strengths? What weaknesses can you identify?

- **Book Reviews** (40%): Each student will complete 4 short book reviews. Each of these reviews is worth 10% of your final grade. All reviews should be submitted by email prior to the discussion of the reviewed book. At least one of these reviews needs to be completed by February 12th. These reviews should be between 500 and 750 words in length and should answer the following questions:
  
  - What are the book’s central arguments? With whom, if anyone, is the author arguing? What interpretations are being challenged?
  - What types of sources does the author use to support his/her arguments?
  - Overall, what strengths and weaknesses would you identify in this study (in terms of argument, evidence, interpretation, method, and/or style)?

- **Historiography** (40%): The student will write a 15-page historiographical essay which summarizes, critiques, and identifies the gaps in the scholarly literature on a particular subject or theme related to the Age of Jackson. There are three components to this assignment:
  
  - First, the student will submit an annotated bibliography (5%). This bibliography will consist of a list of the 6 to 7 secondary sources that will form the basis of your final paper and it will include a 4-5 sentence evaluative summary of each source. This assignment is due March 19th.
  - Second, the student will submit a complete rough draft of their essay (10%), which will be due April 30th.
  - Third, the student’s final paper (25%) is due May 14th.

- **Academic Dishonesty**: A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, words, or statements of another person without appropriate acknowledgment. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge another whenever he or she quotes another person’s actual words; paraphrases another person’s words; uses another person’s ideas, opinion or theory; or borrows facts, statistics, or other material, unless the information is common knowledge. It is official UTEP policy that all suspected cases of plagiarism must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation.
• **Disabilities:** Any reasonable accommodations will be made for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see the professor during the first two weeks or make an appointment to discuss any special needs one might have. If a student has a documented disability and requires specific accommodations, they will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 (http://sa.utep.edu/cass/).

**Calendar:**

Week 1 (Jan. 22): Taylor, *The Civil War of 1812*

Week 2 (Jan. 29): Sellers, *The Market Revolution*

Week 3 (Feb. 5): Howe, *What Hath God Wrought*

Week 4 (Feb. 12): Sheriff, *The Artificial River*

Week 5 (Feb. 19): Watson, *Liberty and Power*

Week 6 (Feb. 26): Johnson, *Soul by Soul*

Week 7 (Mar. 5): Remini, *Andrew Jackson*

Week 8 (Mar. 12): Spring Break

Week 9 (Mar. 19): Annotated Bibliography due!

Week 10 (Mar. 26): Horsman, *Race and Manifest Destiny*

Week 11 (Apr. 2): ★ Meet to discuss bibliography and rough draft organization

Week 12 (Apr. 9): Delay, *War of a Thousand Deserts*

Week 13 (Apr. 16): Greenberg, *A Wicked War*

Week 14 (Apr. 23): Johnson, *Roaring Camp*

Week 15 (Apr. 30): Rough draft due!

Week 16 (May 7): ★ Meet to discuss revisions for final paper.

Week 17 (May 14): Final paper due!

★ Read this syllabus carefully for it contains important information about this course’s requirements and assignments. Also, the instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus over the course of the semester.