HILD 2A- United States History to 1820- Fall 2008

Professor Ryan Jordan
MWF 3-3:50 PCYNH 109
Office Hours: WF 4-5PM, HSS 4047

This course is an introduction to American history roughly from the sixteenth century to the early national period. This course examines the initial European conquest of the Americas; the rise of the British colonies; the causes of the American Revolution; the meaning of American independence for different groups in the nation; conflicting views of the federal constitution; slavery and the origins of racism; and changes in social structure, religion, ethnicity, and gender roles. This course is intended to provide the student with a sense of the basic narrative of American history before 1820, while at the same time introducing the student to the salient issues in American historiography.

Required Readings:

Ryan Jordan, *Course Packet- HILD 2A*
Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative and Other Writings: Revised Edition* (Penguin Classics)
Benjamin Franklin, *Autobiography*

Grading:

25%- Midterm
25%- 5 page paper on Equiano and Franklin reading (essay prompt handed out at the end of week 7)
35%- Final
15%- Discussion Section attendance

Reading & Lecture Schedule

September 26: Introduction

September 29: Native Peoples of the New World
*American Promise, pp.3-30*

October 1: Europe in the Age of Exploration
*American Promise, pp.35-52; Course Packet- Columbus and de las Casas documents, pp.1-6*

October 3: The New World and 16th Century Europe
*American Promise pp.52-64; Course Packet-Hakluyt document, pp.7*

October 6: Jamestown
*American Promise, pp.69-87; Course Packet- Frethorne and Alsop documents, Horn on Tobacco, pp.8-17*
October 8: From Servitude to Slavery
*American Promise*, pp.87-98; Course Packet-Bacon document; Virginia slave code; Taylor on the West Indies, pp.38-40; 18-26

October 10: *Africans in America* Video: The Terrible Transformation
Begin Reading *Equiano* Narrative

October 13: Puritans and the Settlement of New England
*American Promise*, pp.103-121; Course Packet-Anderson article, Winthrop document, pp.27-37,41-44

October 15: Expansion in the Northern colonies and Native Conflict
*American Promise*, pp.121-131; Course Packet- Lepore article; King Philip's document; Penn document, pp.43-45,45-57

October 17: A Growing Population in British North America
*American Promise*, pp.135-147; Course Packet- Wokeck article and Mittleberger document, 44-45, 58-65

October 20: The British North American Economy
Course Packet-Middleton article, 77-91

October 22: The Growth of Conflict over Slavery
*American Promise*, pp.147-154; Course Packet- Peter Wood article, pp.104-109; continue reading *Equiano*

October 24: Anglicization and Imperial Tensions
*American Promise*, pp.155-168; Course Packet- Hofstra and Lambert articles, pp.66-76, 92-103; begin reading Franklin's Autobiography

October 27: Wars with the French
*American Promise*, pp.173-182

October 29: Midterm

October 31: The Stamp Act and Townshend Crises
*American Promise*, pp.183-194; Course Packet- Stamp Act Congress and Samuel Adams documents; Morgan and Meier articles; pp.110-132

November 3: From the Boston Massacre to the Declaration of Independence
*American Promise*, pp.194-220; Course Packet, Henry article, pp.113-115 (Film: Liberty!)

November 5: The Revolutionary War
*American Promise*, pp.220-242
November 7: Whose Revolution?  
*Course Packet- Wood and Holton articles, pp.133-146*

November 10: The Crises of the 1780s  
*American Promise, pp.249-268*

November 12: The Federal Constitution and Its Discontents  
*American Promise, pp.269-280; Course Packet- Henry opposing constitution , Young article, Federalists docs, pp.147-161*

November 14: Washington and the Federalists  
*American Promise, pp.285-300; Course Packet-Hamilton and Jefferson documents; Fears of Federalists essay, pp.162-172*

November 17: Conflicts West, East, and South  
*American Promise, pp.301-307; Finish Equiano’s Narrative & Franklin Autobiography*

November 19: The Rise of Jefferson  
*American Promise, pp.307-315; Course Packet- Dem.-Rep societies through Jefferson documents, pp.173-175*

November 21: The “Revolution of 1800”  
*American Promise, pp.319-327; Course Packet- Appleby and McDonald essays, pp.176-183*

November 24: Women’s Status in the Early Republic  
*American Promise, pp.340-343*

November 26: no class (paper due by this date, earlier if you are leaving for break)

December 1: Background to the War of 1812  
*American Promise, pp.327-340*

December 3: The War of 1812 and the plight of Natives  
*Course Packet- Horsman and Dowd essays & Tecumseh documents, pp.187-194*

December 5: Towards the Age of Jackson  
*American Promise, pp.343-350*