

Bryan Rommel-Ruiz
 History Department
 208D Palmer
 Phone: 389-6839; 235-2571
 Email: bruiz@coloradocollege.edu
 Office Hours: M-Th, 12-1

HY 366 The New Republic

Between 1787 and 1860, Americans forged a new nation but then shattered it with civil war. It is difficult to study this period of American history without asking questions about the tensions surrounding the formation of the United States under the Constitution of 1787 and what precipitated the catastrophic (for some apocalyptic and for others emancipating) dissolution of the nation. While we will explore these issues, we must remember that Americans in the early years of the new republic did not see the inevitability of the Civil War that historians and some Americans see today. In this context we will be looking at some of the major issues that provoked Americans in these early years, including the anxieties of forming a new government and securing it, Jeffersonianism and its influence on American political culture, the rise of the Jacksonians, Westward expansion, industrialization, and slavery. Viewed from these different events, we will see the common theme of Americans struggling to define the meaning of the new nation, what it meant to be American, and what was their place in the world. The American Revolution promised republican government and society, but what that meant in the context of an expanding and industrializing nation challenged those revolutionary visions. Both northerners and southerners, men and women, white and black, drew upon these Revolutionary republican principles, not only to define their place in the new political and social order, but to challenge it as well; and for some, at the risk of destroying the American revolutionary experiment in the process.

Books:

Wilentz, *Major Problems in the Early Republic*
 McCoy, *The Elusive Republic*
 Hatch, *The Democratization of American Religion*
 Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness*
 Ford, *The Origins of Southern Radicalism*

Assessment:

Class Participation	20%
Analytical Paper 1	20%
Analytical Paper 2	20%
Midterm	20%
Final	20%

Class Participation:

Class participation constitutes a significant part of your grade. You are expected to come to class prepared to engage the readings, course themes, and your fellow classmates. I conduct a dialogic classroom where discussions form a critical dimension to the learning environment. Preparation, attendance, and participation are all factors that will enable you to make the most of the learning experience. I will grade your participation daily, assessing your level of engagement. Unless your absence is excused by me (and to be cleared by me before class or with a doctor's notice), you are required to write a 5-7 page makeup paper for each day you miss. Failure to turn in these makeup assignments will result in you failing this course. Class begins at 9:30 am unless otherwise noted.

Analytical Papers: There are two 5-7 page analytical papers due on the specific Fridays by noon. I will accept hard copies or email attachments. Each day I will raise a few questions that focus on that day's readings. These questions are meant to be a guide for you to construct your own questions and theses for your papers. You are also welcome to develop your own questions. The papers engage the readings for each week, although the second paper can include material from readings of previous weeks. I grade papers based upon clarity of argument, engagement with the readings (including citing the text), and organization. Bibliographies are not necessary unless you go outside the required text. I expect students to sign the honor code. Failure to write the honor code will result in a 1/3 grade deduction.

Midterm

The Midterm is a two-hour, open-note, open-book exam. There will be five to six essay questions of which students will write on four, each worth 25 points. The exam must be typed out and double-spaced. You will be graded on your ability to effectively answer the question and integration of readings. The exam will begin at 9:30 and students have until 11:45 to turn them. Exams received after 11:45 will be deducted 1/3 of a grade. Failure to sign the honor code will also result in a 1/3 grade deduction.

Final: The final is a three hour, open-note exam. The final is composed of one common essay question and two shorter essay questions. It will be distributed at 9:00am Wednesday November 23, and needs to be turned in by 12:15. There is a fifteen-minute grace period for you to get to organize and turn in the exam. Finals received after 12:15 will result in a 1/3 grade deduction. Failure to sign the honor code will also result in a 1/3 grade deduction.

Reading Schedule

Monday, October 31

Introduction

Tuesday, November 1

Wilentz, Major Problems, Chapters 1-3, Constitution of 1787 (Appendix, iv-xv)

Wednesday, November 2

Wilentz, Major Problems, Chapter 4 (minus the McCoy essay)
 McCoy, Elusive Republic, Intro-Chapter 4

Thursday, November 3
 McCoy, Elusive Republic, Chapters 5-10

Friday, November 4
 Writing Day
 Analytical Paper due by noon

Monday, November 7
 Wilentz, Major Problems, Chapters 5-6

Tuesday, November 8
 Wilentz, Major Problems, Chapters 7-8

Wednesday, November 9
 Hatch, Democratization of American Christianity, Chapters 1-4

Thursday, November 10
 Hatch, Democratization of American Christianity, Chapters 5-8

Friday, November 11
Midterm

Monday, November 14
 Roediger, Wages of Whiteness, Chapters 1-4

Tuesday, November 15
 Roediger Wages of Whiteness, Chapters 5-9
 Wilentz, Major Problems, Chapter 9

Wednesday, November 16
 Wilentz, Major Problems, Chapters 10-12

Thursday, November 17
 Wilentz, Major Problems, Chapters 13-14

Friday, November 18
 Writing Day
 Analytical Paper due by noon

Monday, November 21
 Ford, Origins of Southern Radicalism, Chapters 1-5

Tuesday, November 22

Ford, Origins of Southern Radicalism, Chapters 6-10

Wednesday, November 23

Final