HIS 315K: United States History, 1492-1865  
Spring 2011  
Tues. and Thur. 8 am., JES A121A  
Unique Number: 39400

Benjamin Latrobe, Extraordinary Appearances in the Heavens, and on Earth, 1797,  
Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore

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Assigned Readings:

The following books are all required reading for the course. They are available for purchase at the University Co-op.

Text:


Discussion Readings:

Edward Countryman, What did the Constitution Mean to Early Americans?, (Bedford-St. Martins, 1999).
Kathryn Kish Sklar, Women’s Rights Emerges within the Antislavery Movement, 1830-1870, (Bedford-St. Martins, 2000).

Exams:

There will be three mid-term exams in this course as well as a final exam. The mid-terms will each address materials covered in the preceding third of the semester. The final will draw upon themes developed throughout the semester. One week before each exam I will make available a study guide which contains a short list of possible essay questions for the coming exam. On the day of the exam several of those questions will be selected at random and you will be required to answer one of the chosen questions. Each exam (except the final) will also include a list of ten terms drawn from the lectures and readings and you will have to briefly identify and describe the significance of five of those terms. No make-ups outside of the scheduled make-up session will be allowed or given. (See grading policy below.)

Grading Policy:

Final grades will be based upon only the highest three of your four exam scores. The lowest exam score will be discarded. You also have the option of choosing to take only three exams and let your score be calculated from them alone. If you miss an exam for any reason, you will automatically have played your “get out of one exam free” card. Thus, allowing for contingencies, you would be wise to
save this card until the end of the semester. Each of the exams is worth a potential 100 points. No other "extra-credit" assignments of any kind will either be assigned or accepted. In accord with University policy, I will be assigning + and - grades. Final grades will be awarded according to the following scale: A 270 points or more, A- 264-269, B+ 255-263, B 240-254, B- 234-239, C+ 225-233, C 210-224, C- 204-209, D+ 195-203, D 180-194, D- 174-179, F 173 or fewer points.

Course Schedule:

Part One: Empires

Week One; Textbook Reading, Chapter One.
  Tues., January 18 – Introductions; Requirements and Themes.
  Thur., January 20 – The world in 1492; Columbus and Consequences; Class Reading: Olwell, ed., 1-8.

Week Two; Textbook Reading, Chapter Two.

Week Three; Textbook Reading, Chapter Three.
  Tues., 1 February – Origins of English Colonization; Class Reading, Olwell, ed.: 11-23.
  Thur., 3 February – Unfree Labor in Early America; Class Reading, Olwell, ed.: 129-45.

Week Four; Textbook Reading, Chapter Four.
  Thur., 10 February – The Indians’ “New World;” Class Reading, Olwell, ed.: 37-59; Study Guide for First Exam will be made available.

Week Five; No Textbook Reading.
  Tues., 15 February – Sex and Power in Early America; Class Reading, Olwell, ed.: 27-35.
  Thur., 17 February – FIRST EXAM

Part Two: Republics

Week Six; Textbook Reading, Chapter Five
  Tues., 22 February – Mid-18th-century British America; Class Reading, Olwell, ed.: 105-22.
Thur., 24 February – American Provincialism, No Class Reading.

Week Seven; Textbook Reading, Chapter Six.
   Tues., 1 March – The Imperial Crisis, 1763-1766; Class Reading, Olwell, ed.: 61-83
   Thur., 3 March – Toward Independence; Class Reading, Olwell, ed.: 85-99, 101-03.

Week Eight; Textbook Reading, Chapter Seven.
   Tues., 8 March – Revolutionary Republicanism; Class Reading, Olwell, ed.: 85-99, 101-03.
   Thur., 10 March – Liberty and Slavery; No Class Reading.

Spring Break – March 14-18

Week Nine; Textbook Reading, Chapter Eight and Nine.
   Tues., 22 March – 1787: The Second American Revolution; Class Reading, Olwell, ed.: 123-27.
   Thur., 24 March – Interpreting the Constitution; Class Reading, Countryman, ed., 89-109, 113-32, 141-61; (Study Guide for Second Exam will be made available)

Week Ten; Textbook Reading, Chapter Ten.
   Tues., 29 March – Mr. Jefferson’s Republic, No Class Reading.
   Thur., 31 March – SECOND EXAM Part Three: Democracies

Week Eleven; Textbook Reading, Chapter Eleven.
   Tues., 5 April – Nationalism and Sectionalism; No Class Reading.
   Thur., 7 April – American “Restlessness;” Class Reading, Olwell, ed.: 151-177.

Week Twelve; Textbook Reading, Chapter Twelve.
   Thur., 14 April – Jacksonian Nightmares; Class Reading, Olwell, ed.: 195-223.

Week Thirteen; Textbook Reading, Chapter Thirteen.
   Tues., 19 April – Religion, Reform, and Abolitionism; Class Reading, Olwell, ed., 181-93.
   Thur., 21 April – Women’s Rights and Anti-Slavery; Class Reading, Sklar, 1-76, 84-88, 107-10, 142-45, 179-80; Olwell, ed.: 179-80.
Week Fourteen; Textbook Reading, Chapter Fourteen.
   Tues., 26 April - The Politics of Slavery, 1836-1850; No Class Reading.
   Thur., 28 April - Kansas-Nebraska and After; Class Reading, Olwell, ed.: 225-65; (study guide for third exam will be made available)

Week Fifteen; Textbook Reading, Chapter Fifteen.
   Tues., 3 May - Things fall Apart, 1860-61; Class Reading, Olwell, ed.: 267-85; (study guide for final exam will be made available)
   Thur., 5 May - THIRD EXAM

FINAL EXAM:
   Tues., 17 May, 9:00-12:00, Place TBA