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GUIDELINES and READING LIST for NINETEENTH-CENTURY US HISTORY: JACKSONIAN & GILDED AGE AMERICA

what i do
For those of you who interested in taking a readings course with me, I've put together a few guidelines to organize the process. First, I primarily offer readings in nineteenth century US history and applied new media as well as specialized readings in US West, legal, and business history. Second, I also do readings in nineteenth topics that prepare a student for a doctoral research seminar. Essentially, this is a nineteenth-century reading list that emphasizes a particular topic. Students who have arranged these readings have done work read in the areas of nineteenth material culture, domestic law, and the photography of the American West. Finally, my new media readings are in the area of applied history; in other words, I'm interested in the techniques and applications that bring history into digital form.

what you need to do
Like most traditionally trained historians, I can go from Pequots to Pop, but I am primarily a historian of the nineteenth century and am most comfortable in that hundred years; hence, my reading list reflects this emphasis as well as my specialties (US West, women, legal, and business history)—with the exception of Civil War & Reconstruction. There are others in the department that are much better versed in this period's bibliography and, if Civil War/Reconstruction is an area that you wish to explore, I encourage you to seek these faculty out and sign on with them. My own predilection does not mean, however, that readers cannot add and subtract texts and move into other periods (including Civil War & Reconstruction within reason) to fill gaps in their knowledge. Before we embark on a readings course, I will need to have a list of the books that you have read in your courses. Working with your list, we can make sensible choices that will both appeal to your intellectual interests and fill the blanks. Once I have your bibliography, we will meet and draw up an individualized readings list.

what is required
For my purposes (and yours as well), you will be required to submit a brief (2-3 typed page) paper for each text assigned for a reading period; the papers should both summarize the basic argument of the text, its methodology, evidence, and conclusions. You are particularly encouraged to use these papers to make connections among different readings in the readings course as well as among books that you have read for other courses. You need to think about how one book relates to another in terms of historiography, methodology, and general approach. The papers are due at the meeting at which you are discussing the particular readings. You will hate doing this, but I guarantee that these papers will come in very handy for your exams whether you are taking the master's written or doctoral orals.

Generally a readings course meets every other week during the semester. Master's readers will choose 8-10 books from each of the periods, while doctoral readers should read 10-12 from the two lists. Those that are starred are required.

I also think that reading a good college-level American history text would not be amiss. Such a text would furnish a refresher for those periods that the readings course does not cover. I would suggest Boyer et al.'s Enduring Vision, Davis et al.'s The Great Republic, or Rosenwzeig, Who Built America.

Jacksonian America

1. Paul Johnson, *Shopkeeper's Millennium*—social history of religious revivals

2. Alexis de Toqueville, *Democracy in America*—what to say about a classic **

3. Karen Halttunen, *Confidence Men & Painted Women: A Study of Middle-class Culture in America, 1830-1870*—a good read on the mentalite´ in the US

4. John Kasson, *Rudeness & Civility: Manners in Nineteenth Century Urban America* —a good cultural history on something not much thought about

5. Larry Levine, *High Brow Meets Low Brow: American Culture as an Intellectual Concern*—a look at cultural taste and its origins

6. Suzanne Lebsock, *The Free Women of Petersburg*—very good book on women in Virginia in early 19th century

7. Harry Watson, *Liberty and Power*—very good overview of Jacksonian period; focus on market revolution

8. Paul Johnson and Sean Wilentz, *The Kingdom of Matthias*—lively narrative of an early religious "cult."

9. Sean Wilentz, *Chants Democratic*—important book on industrialization and workers in NYC

10. Tom Dublin, *Women and Work: The Transformation of Work and Community in Lowell, Massachusetts*—A quantitative look at the changes in women's industrial labor

11. Alan Taylor, *William Cooper's Town*—an absorbing study of the politics and economics of land development in the years after the American Revolution

12. Mary Ryan, Cradle of the Middle Class—a classic on women's role in the formation of the middle class

13. Patricia Cline Cohen, *The Murder of Helen Jewett*—a murder serves as the focus for an exploration of gender, public display, and the press

14. Linda Gordon-Reed, *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemmings: An American Controversy*—an interesting discussion of a historical puzzle and controversy from both the legal and historical perspectives

15. Amy Gilman Srebnick, *The Mysterious Death of Mary Rogers: Sex and Culture in Nineteenth-Century New York*—An exploration of changing gender roles, sexuality, and law

16. Karen Haltunnen, *Murder Most Foul: The Killer and the American Gothic Imagination*—A cultural look at homicide and changing interpretations of the perpetrator

17. Michael Grossberg, *Governing the Hearth: Law and Family in Nineteenth-Century America*—An excellent study in the transformation of family law and the legal interpretations of gender

18. Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *The Age of Homespun: Objects and Stories in the Creation of the American Myth*—A look at objects and how these objects illuminate the transformation of economics, politics, and gender relations

19. James P. Ronda, *Lewis & Clark Among the Indians*—A different perspective on the Corps of Discovery and its encounters with native peoples

20. Robert Rimini, *Andrew Jackson: The Course of American Freedom: 1822–1832*—This is the second volume in Rimini's exhaustive biography and the most interesting

21. Colin Calloway, *One Long Winter Count*—A very long book, but if you read one book on Native American history, this should be it.

22. Susan Johnson, *Roaring Camp*—What could be better than a social history of the Gold Rush?

Gilded Age

1. Frederick Jackson Turner, *The Significance of the Frontier in American History*—Another one of those must reads and an example of "grand theory"**

2. Robert Wiebe, *The Search for Order*—an extremely influential synthesis of the years 1877-1920.

3. Gail Bederman & Catharine R. Stimpson, *Manliness and Civilization: A Cultural History of Gender and Race in the United States, 1880-1917*—an interesting exploration of the topics during the Gilded Age

4. Alan Trachtenberg, *The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age*—survey of late nineteenth century from a largely cultural perspective.

5. Edward Kirkland, *Dream and Thought in the Business Community, 1860-1900*—an exceptionally short but trenchant work on the business thinking

6. Alfred Chandler, *The Visible Hand: The Managerial Revolution in American Business*—a basic text for understanding the structure of business in America

7. Gretchen Ritter, *Goldbugs and Greenbacks: The Antimonopoly Tradition and the Politics of Finance in America*—a good look at an aspect of business and the economy that has permeated American history

8. Lawrence Goodwyn, *The Populist Moment* (the abridged version of his very long The Democratic Promise)—a very important reinterpretation of populism. [see articles in Journal of American History that comment on Goodwyn, e.g. James Turner, "Understanding the Populists" (Sept. 1980); see Steve Hahn, "The Roots of Southern Populism" for an important local study.

9. Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams*—An Adams without a job? What's left but to observe the events and people around him**

10. Richard Hofstadter, *Age of Reform*—a classic interpretation of populism (You should look at a more modern treatment if you select this text.)

11. Steven P. Erie, *Rainbow's End: Irish Americans and the Dilemmas of Urban Machine Politics*—A major study of Irish American political organizations

12. Patricia Limerick, *Legacy of Conquest*—the book that ignited the "new western history"

13. James Cook, *The Arts of Deception: Playing with Fraud in the Age of Barnum*—A study of mass entertainment and the greatest "humbug" of them all.

14. William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis*—A combination of environmental and urban history explaining why Chicago grew and became the urban center of the American heartland

15. David Emmons, *The Butte Irish*—A look at immigration in one of the largest industrial cities in the American West

16. Nell Irvin Painter, *Standing at Armageddon: The United States, 1877–1919*—A readable account of Gilded Age that includes good discussions of race and gender

17. Regina Morantz-Sanchez, *Conduct Unbecoming a Woman: Medicine on Trial in Turn-of-the-Century Brooklyn*—A trial serves as the focus for women's professionalism, the development of journalism, and urban identity

18. Linda Gordon, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*—A microhistory that examines ethnicity, gender, race in all its complexity

19. Mark Twain, *The Gilded Age*—First published in 1873, the novel is a biting satire and stark portrait of post-Civil War America

20. Louis Menard, *The Metaphysical Club*—Pragmatism was America's contribution to the philosophical canon, and this intellectual history examines the lives and thought of those who articulated its tenets

21. Rebecca Edwards, *New Spirits: Americans in the Gilded Age*—A good overview with an excellent discussion of sources that will point you in new directions

22. Martha Sandweiss, Print the Legend—The development of photography and photographing the American West

23. Philip Deloria, Indian in Unexpected Places—Contrary to popular misconception, Native Americans didn't vanish but turned up in "unexpected places"