THE AGE OF JACKSON
HIST 4325: JUNIOR-SENIOR SEMINAR

CARTWRIGHT – SPRING 2012 - 23392
W- 4:30-7:20 / LART 122

CONTACT INFORMATION:
INSTRUCTOR: Brad Cartwright, Ph.D.
EMAIL: bjcarterwright@utep.edu
OFFICE: LART 333, ext. 7051
OFFICE HOURS: MW 10:30-12, W 4-4:30 & by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This seminar focuses on American politics, economics, and culture from the end of the War of 1812 to the Compromise of 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 demanded equal political and economic 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 this course, students will have constructed a 17-20 page research paper. This paper will represent the culmination of a series of steps designed to assist students in becoming familiar with the era’s historiography, conducting primary source research, and crafting original historical interpretations. At the end of the semester, students will make an oral presentation summarizing the results of their research.

REQUIRED BOOKS:


COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Course Participation (25%): Your attendance and participation in class discussions is paramount to your success in this class. Thus, all students are expected to complete the weekly reading assignments and, to help facilitate class discussion, everyone must come to class with a 350-word synopsis of the assigned readings. These writing assignments will be explained further in class. No more than one excused absence will be tolerated and students will be required to write a longer 750-word writing assignment for any missed class. Any absences beyond one will significantly lower this portion of your grade, as will habitual failure to participate in weekly discussions.
Research Paper Portfolio (75%): Your Research Paper Portfolio will consist of the following parts:

- **Potential Research Topics (5%)**: For this assignment, students will write short paragraphs on three different topics on American expansionism that interest them. A broad list of topics will be made available in class.

- **Primary Source Analysis (5%)**: For this assignment, each student will critically analyze a primary source from *The U.S. War with Mexico: A Brief History with Documents*.

- **Proposal (5%)**: The proposal is a preliminary statement that defines your topic, attempts to identify a thesis, and presents questions to be answered.

- **Annotated Bibliography (10%)**: The annotated bibliography will consist of a list of 5 primary and 5 secondary sources. It will also include an evaluative summary of each source and a description of how the source will be used. We will examine sample annotated bibliographies in class.

- **Outline (5%)**: This assignment should clearly identify the major sections of your paper and include a brief statement of what purpose each section will serve in relation to your overall argument.

- **Peer Review of Rough Drafts (5%)**: Each student will read and critique two of their classmate’s rough drafts. A rubric for constructive criticism will be provided.

- **Presentation (10%)**: Each student will give a 10-minute presentation of their research. This presentation can include multimedia.

- **Final Paper (30%)**: The final paper should be 15-20 pages in length and must include proper citations. It should also be grammatically correct, structurally sound, free of typos and other errors, and written in 12 pt. font with one inch margins.

**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 be referred to the Office of Student Life for investigation.

**Disabilities**: I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities. Please talk to me to discuss any special needs you might have, preferably within the first two weeks of class.

**Grade Distribution**:

- **Course Participation**: 25%
- **Research Paper Portfolio**
  - Potential Research Topics: 5%
  - Proposal: 5%
  - Primary Source Analysis: 5%
  - Annotated Bibliography: 10%
  - Outline: 5%
  - Peer Review of Rough Drafts: 5%
  - Presentation: 10%
  - Final Paper: 30%
Calendar and Assignments:

Week 1 (Jan. 18):
- Course overview
- Introductions
- Age of Jackson?
- Thinking Historically and Reading Strategically
- Discussion: Primary and Secondary Sources
  - Jill Lepore, “Vast Designs”
  - Manifest Destiny in 19th Century Art

Week 2 (Jan. 25):
- Working with Historical Evidence: Benjamin, A Student’s Guide to History (ch. 3)
- Discussion:
  - Howe, What Hath God Wrought (pgs. 1-163)
  - Horowitz, Attitudes Towards Sex in Antebellum America

Week 3 (Feb. 1):
- Visit the UTEP Library for an overview on online research methods and available materials in Special Collections (meet on the first floor by the coffee shop at 4:20).

Week 4 (Feb. 8):
- **RPP: Potential Research Topics due (bring 3 copies to class)**
- Discussion:
  - Howe, What Hath God Wrought (pgs. 164-327)
  - Watson, Liberty and Power

Week 5 (Feb. 15):
- **RPP: Primary Source Analysis due (bring 3 copies to class)**
- Discussion:
  - Howe, What Hath God Wrought (pgs. 328-524)
  - Johnson, Soul by Soul

Week 6 (Feb. 22):
- **RPP: Proposal due (bring 3 copies to class)**
- Citing Sources: Benjamin, A Student’s Guide to History (ch. 8)
- Discussion:
  - Howe, What Hath God Wrought (pgs. 525-700)
  - Horsman, Race and Manifest Destiny

Week 7 (Feb. 29):
- **RPP: Annotated Bibliography due (bring 3 copies to class)**
- The Research Process: Benjamin, A Student’s Guide to History (ch. 6)
- Discussion:
  - Howe, What Hath God Wrought (pgs. 701-855)
  - Chavez, The U.S. War with Mexico (pgs. 1-33 and three primary sources that speak to a particular theme, such as imperialism, Manifest Destiny, race, gender, opposition, warfare, culture, economics, politics, etc…)

Week 8 (Mar. 7):
- No class (Mandatory individual meetings to discuss student proposals, bibliographies, and strategies for outlining research paper.)
Week 9 (Mar. 14): SPRING BREAK

Week 10 (Mar. 21):
  - RPP: Outlines due (bring 3 copies to class)
  - Writing a Research Paper: Benjamin, A Student's Guide to History (ch. 7)
  - Status Reports
  - Editing, Formatting, and Citing

Week 11 (Mar. 28):
  - No class: Individual Research and Writing

Week 12 (Apr. 4):
  - No class: Individual Research and Writing
  - Mandatory individual meetings to discuss paper progress.

Week 13 (Apr. 11):
  - RPP: Rough Drafts due (bring 3 copies to class)
  - Preparing Presentations: Benjamin, A Student's Guide to History (pg. 78-79)
  - Rough Draft Peer Review Workshop
  - Determine order of RPP Presentations.

Week 14 (Apr. 18):
  - RPP: Presentations

Week 15 (Apr. 25):
  - RPP: Presentations

Week 16 (*May 4):
  - Frances G. Harper Student History Conference: On Friday, May 4th, roughly three students from each of the four junior/senior seminars being taught this semester will present their research findings in a formal conference setting. Papers will be selected based on topic, originality, argument, quality, and use of primary sources. While the best papers from the conference will win cash awards and recognition, all attendees will receive a light breakfast and lunch. All class members are expected to attend at least one session. More information on the conference will be made available during the semester.

Week 17 (May 7)
  - RPP: Final Papers 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.