

HI2106 Themes in Modern American History
Hilary Term, 2014
Tutorial Guide

Tutorial Assignment

Students must submit a 500 word book review focused on the question, “What is the major historical argument developed in this book?” The essay is due in class on the day of their presentation.

In addition, each student will participate in a book “interview.” All students assigned to a particular week will come before the class to answer broad questions from the tutorial leader and classmates about the book’s arguments and whether or not they would recommend the book to fellow students. Versus a traditional group presentation, it is not necessary to prepare comments in advance. However, you must have read the book and be prepared to summarize its main arguments so that other students in the class may gain some understanding of the work.

While this assignment will not be assessed, it is required, and *students who fail to complete it satisfactorily will be given an unsatisfactory mark for the tutorial*. Because these assignments are not assessed, you may draw upon them in exam answers where appropriate.

Copies of the books will be available on library reserve, but you may wish to purchase your own copy; inexpensive used copies may be available from online dealers.

All students must submit a list of three preferences for choice of book to review at the first tutorial meeting the week of 3 February. A presentation schedule will be distributed by email directly following the tutorial. Students who do not submit their list of preferences may be assigned to any group.

The options are as follows:

Bernard Bailyn, *Ideological Origins of the American Revolution* (w/c 10 Feb.)

Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (w/c 17 Feb.; available as e-book through library website)

Patricia Nelson Limerick, *The Legacy of Conquest: the Unbroken Past of the American West* (w/c 3 Mar.)

Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race* (w/c 10 Mar.; also available as e-book through library website)

Anders Stephanson, *Manifest Destiny: American Expansionism and the Empire of Right* (w/c 17 Mar.)

Attendance and Participation

Your attendance and active and informed participation in seminar discussion is expected. *Students who have more than two unexcused absences from tutorial will be given an unsatisfactory mark for the class.*

Readings

Tutorial discussion will focus on required readings, which all mandatory for all students. The works listed under recommended reading are suggested but not required.

Please note that required readings are available either as web links (see below) or on Blackboard through mymodule.tcd.ie.

In addition, two films are assigned for this class. They may be watched either on your own or at public screenings (to be announced later).

If students encounter trouble in obtaining readings, they should email Dr. Geary at gearyd@tcd.ie

Tutorial Schedule

Week One: Puritans and Foundational American Myths (w/c 3 Feb.)

Required Reading:

John Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity" (available online at <http://religiousfreedom.lib.virginia.edu/sacred/charity.html>)

Perry Miller, "Errand into the Wilderness," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 10 (Jan., 1953), 3-32 (available online at www.jstor.org)

Recommended Reading:

James Axtell, *Natives and Newcomers*

John Demos, *Entertaining Satan: Witchcraft and the culture of early New England*

David D. Hall, *Worlds of Wonder, Days of Judgment: popular religious belief in early New England*.

Edmund Morgan, *The Puritan dilemma: the story of John Winthrop*

Week Two: Revolutionary Ideas (w/c 10 Feb.)

Required Reading:

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, Introduction, Chs. 1-4 (everything but the appendixes). (Available on-line at [http://www.bartleby.com/133/.](http://www.bartleby.com/133/))

Group Presentation:

Bernard Bailyn, *Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*,

Recommended Reading:

Eric Foner, *Tom Paine and Revolutionary America*

Daniel Rodgers, *Contested Truths: Keywords in American Politics Since Independence*

Susan Juster, *Disorderly Women: Sexual Politics and Evangelicalism in Revolutionary New England*

Edmund Morgan, *American Slavery, American Freedom*

Gordon S. Wood, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*

Rosemarie Zagari, *Revolutionary Backlash: Women and Politics in the Early American Republic*

Week Three: The Frontier (w/c 17 Feb.)

Required Reading:

The Searchers (1956 film)

Glenn Frankel, interview on “Against the Grain,” 16 April 2013, available at <http://www.againstthegrain.org/program/696/coming-tues-416>

Fredrick Jackson Turner, “The Significance of the Frontier in American History,” Chapter 1, *The Frontier in American History*, available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/22994/22994-h/22994-h.htm>.

Group Presentation:

Patricia Nelson Limerick, *The Legacy of Conquest*

Recommended Readings:

Glenn Frankel, *The Searchers: The Making of an American Legend*

Reginald Horsman, *Race and Manifest Destiny*

Richard Slotkin, *Regeneration Through Violence*

Richard White and Patricia Nelson Limerick, *The Frontier in American Culture*

Richard White, *The Middle Ground*

Please note that no tutorials will be held the week of 24 Feb. (reading week)

Week Four: Slavery (w/c 3 Mar.)**Required Reading:**

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, Chs. 1-11. (Available online via the library catalogue; use 2008 version Literature online version at web address <http://stella.catalogue.tcd.ie/iii/encore/record/C|Rb14286432|SNarrative+of+the+life+of+Frederick+Douglass|P0%2C1|Orightresult|X5?lang=eng&suite=pearl>)

Group Presentation:

Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market*

Recommended Reading:

Ira Berlin, *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*

Eugene Genovese, *Roll, Jordan, Roll*

Lawrence Levine, *Black Culture and Black Consciousness*

C. Vann Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*

Week Five: Popular Culture & The Melting Pot (w/c 10 Mar.)

Required Reading:

The Jazz Singer (1927 film)

Michael Rogin, *Blackface, White Noise*, Ch. 4

Group Presentation:

Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Whiteness of a Different Color*

Recommended Reading:

Gary Gerstle, *American Crucible*

John Higham, *Strangers in the Land*

Eric Lott, *Love and Theft*

Greil Marcus, *Mystery Train*

Week Six: American Empire (w/c 17 Mar.)

Required Reading:

First Open Door Note, available at <http://www.vlib.us/amdocs/texts/opendoor.html>

William Appleman Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy*, Ch. 1

Group Presentation:

Anders Stephanson, *Manifest Destiny*

Recommended Reading:

Carol Anderson, *Eyes Off the Prize: The United Nations and the African American Struggle for Human Rights, 1944-1955*

Michael Hunt, *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy*

Walter Lafeber, *America, Russia and the Cold War, 1945-1996*

Penny Von Eschen, *Race for Empire*

Reinhold Wagnleitner, *Coca-colonization and the Cold War*