This course is a comprehensive examination of political, economic, and social developments in the United States from the end of the American Revolution (1783) through the Mexican War (1846-1848). Major themes during the first half of the semester include the growth of Republican ideology in the aftermath of the Revolution, the writing and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, the development of political parties, the decline of the Federalist party and the advent of Jeffersonian Democracy, and efforts by the nation's leaders (ultimately unsuccessful) to avoid being drawn into the European war. Major themes during the second half of the semester include the causes of the War of 1812, the growth of sectionalism and the debate over slavery, the rise of Jacksonian Democracy, the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution, the development of a distinct American identity, the reform movements of the 1830s and 1840s, "Manifest Destiny" and the Mexican War, and the coming of the Civil War. Course requirements include two in-class examinations and a final paper.