19TH CENTURY AMERICAN HISTORY GRADUATE READING LIST (1.31.13)

Overview

The following reading list provides a general overview of the subjects and texts that students should study in preparing to write the nineteenth century portion of American and US Minor and Major exams.

How to use the reading lists

Like our PDR courses, our exam reading lists divide American history into three broad periods: The Colonial Era; the Nineteenth Century, and the Twentieth Century. Exam questions will likewise cover these three broad periods, although some questions may ask you to think across periods. Please use all three reading lists to develop your own personalized exam reading lists.

Beginning well in advance of the planned exam date, you should develop, update and personalize your own reading lists to include any recently published works not yet on the departmental lists, as well as any texts you consider central to your own field. You can plan your exam reading by marking off texts that you have read and the texts you plan to read. You will not be expected to master all the books and articles on all three of the lists, but you should have some command of most of the subject areas.

Once you have put together your own annotated and updated version of the lists you should meet with your examiners to discuss and review your personalized lists and reading plan. Such meetings should occur well in advance of your exam date and will allow you to confirm that your lists are up-to-date, and include a suitable selection of texts.

Please submit a final copy of your updated and approved lists to your examiners (and to Dawn Ruskai) when you hand in your completed exam.

1. Life in the Early Republic


2. **The Market Revolution, Economic Transformations and Cultures of Capitalism**


3. **Engendering the Nation: Gender, Sexuality, and the Family**


4. **Protestant Revivalism and the Reformist Impulse**


5. **Frontiers, Borderlands and “Manifest Destiny”**


6. **Slavery and the South**


7. **Politics, “The Slave Question”, and the Road to Disunion**


8. **The Civil War**


Chandra Manning, *What this Cruel War was Over: Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War*. Vintage, 2008

Stephanie McCurry, *Confederate Reckoning: Power and Politics in the Civil War South*. Harvard University Press, 2010


9. **Reconstruction and Redemption**


10. **Race, Class, Ethnicity in the Gilded Age**


**11. American Empire**


12. **Intellectual and Cultural Currents**


Lawrence Levine, *Black Culture and Black Consciousness: Afro-American Folk Thought from Slavery to Freedom*. Oxford University Press, 1977


13. **Science, Technology, and the Environment**


Susan Schrepfer, *Nature's Altars: Mountains, Gender, and American Environmentalism*. University of Kansas, 2005


