

## **Introduction**

The market revolution in America defined the development of US society and culture over the course of the long nineteenth century. This course examines how Americans at that time constructed, experienced and challenged the many facets of capitalism taking shape in the US. Taking a thematic approach, the course will explore topics such as labour and the culture of work, class and gender identities in a capitalist society, debt and failure, confidence and speculation, commodities and consumption and finally the spread of American capitalist cultures both at home and abroad.

## **Aims and Objectives**

At the end of this module you will have a strong understanding of how capitalism as a social structure and cultural construct was created and how it shaped the lives of Americans in the nineteenth century.

You will also be familiar with the key scholarly debates that surround the history of American capitalism in the nineteenth century and will have engaged with those debates yourself.

You will also have developed the skills needed to identify and intervene in scholarly debates, work closely with primary sources and plan a research project on a topic of your choosing.

## **Methods of Assessment**

**The assessment for this course is based entirely on coursework.** The four assessments are designed to test and improve all the different skills you require as historians. Over the semester you will be working towards the larger goal of developing a research proposal of your own, one that could form the basis of a Historical Research Dissertation if you would like to pursue one.

## **Teaching Arrangements**

There will be one lecture and one single hour seminar each week:

**Lectures are on Fridays at 10am**

Seminars are also on Fridays and will be held at either 11am or 12pm. Please check your timetable for details.

The lectures are on the broad context of the week's topics. As there is no textbook for this course, attendance is crucial for both your understanding of the course material and your successful completion of this course.

Seminars are an opportunity to explore the week's readings and the themes of the

week in greater detail. **You will read at least one primary source and one secondary source per week.** These discussions are the heart of the course. They provide you with the chance to deepen your analytical skills and hone your critical abilities through discussion. Consequently, attendance is mandatory and participation is strongly advised.

### Preparation for Class

#### For each seminar you should:

- ⌚ Read the assigned reading *thoroughly*. Skimming is not recommended.
- ⌚ Locate, read and contextualize the primary source material.
- ⌚ Prepare a short comment or question and post it to the class blogspot.
- ⌚ Bring the week's reading materials and copy of the primary source to class with you.

The assigned secondary source readings for the week are available from the Course Reader.

Primary sources are either available via Google Books, on the Class Website (CW) or in the QM Library.

Books marked (SH) are available from Senate House only.

The books and articles listed in the longer bibliography are there to guide you when you are working on your research essay. **However**, if you have time to read one book from this list each week, it will dramatically improve your ability to participate in the class discussions and will lift your overall performance on the module. Make it a goal to read one extra item a week.

## Course Programme

### Week 1: Thinking about Capitalism as Culture

#### Assigned Reading:

“Culture’ and ‘Capitalism’ in Raymond Williams, *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society* (1983) (CW)

#### Additional Reading:

Adam Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (1776)

Karl Marx, ‘Wage, Labor and Capital,’ (1849) in Robert C. Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*, (1978) pp. 203-217.

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (1905) trans. Stephen Kalberg (2001) pp. 13-38.

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*, (1944).

E. J. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Capital, 1845-1875* (1975).

E.P Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*, (1968).

Thomas Haskell, *The Culture of the Market* (1993).

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### Week 2: The Great Debate: The Market Revolution

#### Assigned Reading:

Paul Gilje, “The Rise of Capitalism in the Early Republic,” *The Journal of the Early Republic*, 16, (Summer 1996) 159-181.

#### Additional Reading:

Gilje’s article is an introduction to a collection of articles in this issue of the journal that engages with the question of what was changing about the American economy in the early Republic. Look at the titles and choose one to read in addition to Paul Gilje’s article. You should NOT use one of these articles as part of your literature review but reading at least one of them will enhance your literature review with an additional perspective.

### **Week 3: Creating Commodities out of Human Beings**

#### **Assigned Reading:**

Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (2001) pp. 117-134.

**AND**

Robert William Fogel, "American Slavery: A flexible, highly developed form of capitalism' in J. William Harris *Society and Culture in the Slave South* (1992)

#### **Primary Source:**

A selection of Slavery Broadsides (CW)

#### **Additional Reading:**

Christopher Brown, *Moral Capital: Foundations of British Abolitionism*, (2006).

Alfred H. Conrad and John R. Meyer, 'The Economics of Slavery in the Antebellum South,' *Journal of Political Economy* 66: 2 (April 1958): 95-130.

Claudia Dale Goldin, *Urban Slavery in the American South: 1820-1860: A Quantative History* (1976). (SH)

David Brion Davis, *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1770-1823*, (1975).

Steven Deyle, *Carry Me Back, The Domestic Slave Trade in American Life* (2005). (SH)

Douglas Egerton, "Markets Without a Market Revolution, Southern Planters and Capitalism" *The Journal of the Early Republic* 16 (Summer, 1996): 207-221.

Robert Fogel, *Time on the Cross: The Economics of American Negro Slavery* (1974)

Eric Foner, *Free Soil, Free Men, Free Labor: The Ideology of the Republican Party Before the Civil War*, (1970).

Elizabeth Fox Genovese, *Within the Plantation Household: Black and White Women of the Old South*, (1988).

Lawrence Glickman, "Buy for the Sake of the Slave': Abolitionism and the Origins of American Consumer Activism' *American Quarterly* 56:4 (Dec., 2004), pp.889-912

Eugene Genovese, *The Political Economy of Slavery*, (1966).

Thomas L. Haskell, 'The True and Tragical History of Time on the Cross,' *New York Review of Books* 22:15 (October 2, 1975).

Walter Johnson, 'The Pedestal and the Veil: Rethinking the Capitalism/Slavery Question' *Journal of the Early Republic* 24 (Summer 2004): 299-308.

Dale Tomich, *Through the Prism of Slavery: Labor, Capital and World Economy* (2004). (SH)

David Waldstreicher, 'The Vexed Story of Human Commodification Told by Benjamin Franklin and Venture Smith' *Journal of the Early Republic* 24 (Summer 2004): 268-298.

Jonathan Daniel Wells, *The Origins of the Southern Middle Class 1800-1860* (2004)

Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*, (1944).

#### **Week 4: The Politics of Wage Labour: New York as case study.**

##### **Assigned Reading:**

Sean Wilentz, *Chants Democratic: New York City and the Rise of the American Working Class, 1788-1850* (1984) pp. 145-171.

##### **Primary Source:**

Edward Hazen, *The Panorama of Professions and Trades* (1836) **Google Books**  
Please read the Preface and 1 entry of your own choosing.

##### **Additional Reading:**

Joyce Appleby, *Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans*, (2000).

Stuart M. Blumin, *The Emergence of the Middle Class: Social Experience in the American City, 1760-1900*, (1989).

Paul Gilje, *Wages of Independence: Capitalism in the Early Republic*, (1997).

Herbert Gutman, 'Work, Culture and Society in Industrializing America, 1815-1919'  
*The American Historical Review* 78: 3 (Jun., 1973): 531-588.

Jacqueline Jones, *American Work: Four Centuries of Black and White Labor*, (1998).  
(SH)

Bruce Laurie, *Artisans into Workers: Labor in Nineteenth Century America*, (1997).

Walter Licht, *Industrializing America: The Nineteenth Century*, (1995).

Brian Luskey, *On the Make: Clerks and the Quest for Capital in Nineteenth Century America*, (2010).

Cathy Matson (ed.) *The Economy of Early America: Historical Perspectives & New Dimensions* (2006). (SH)

Simon Middleton and Billy G. Smith (eds.) *Class Matters: Early North America and the Atlantic World*, (2008).

David Montgomery, "The Working Classes Of the Pre-Industrial City, 1780-1830,"  
*Labor History*, 9 (Winter 1968): 3-22.

Simon P. Newman, *Embodied History: The Lives of the Poor in Early Philadelphia*, (2003). (SH)

Seth Rockman, *Scraping By: Wage Labor, Slavery and Survival in Early America*, (2009).

Philip Scranton, *Proprietary Capitalism: The Textile Manufacture at Philadelphia, 1800-1885*, (1984).

Charles Sellers, *The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846*, (1991). [See also the Symposium on Charles Seller's book in *The Journal of the Early Republic* 12: 4 (Winter, 1992).

Billy G. Smith, *Down and Out in Early America*, (2004). (SH)

Anthony Wallace, *Rockdale: The Growth of an American Village in Early Industrial America*, (1978).

Gordon Wood, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*, (1993).

## **Week 5: Gender, Labour and Capitalist Ideology.**

### **Assigned Reading:**

Jeanne Boydston, *Home and Work: Housework, Wages and the Ideology of Labour in the Early Republic* (1990), Chapter 2.

### **Primary Source:**

Catherine Beecher, *Treatise on Domestic Economy*, 1841 (reprinted 1856): 25-38.

**Google Books.**

### **Additional Reading:**

Nancy Cott, *The Bonds of Womanhood: 'Woman's Sphere' in New England, 1780-1835*, (1977).

Thomas Dublin, *Women at Work: The Transformation of work and Community in Lowell, Massachusetts* (1979).

Amy Dru Stanley, *From Bondage to Contract: Wage Labor, Marriage and the Market in the Age of Slave Emancipation*, (1998).

Wendy Gamber, 'Tarnished Labor: The Home, the Market and the Boardinghouse in Antebellum America,' *The Journal of the Early Republic* 22:2 (Summer 2002): 177-204.

Nancy Grey Osterud, *Bonds of Community: The Lives of Farm Women in Nineteenth Century New York*, (1991).

Timothy Gilfoyle, *City of Eros: New York City, Prostitution and the Commercialization of Sex, 1790-1920*, (1992).

Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor, *The Ties that Buy: Women and Commerce in Revolutionary America*, (2009).

Catherine E. Kelly, *In the New England Fashion: Reshaping Women's Lives in the Nineteenth Century*, (1999). (SH)

Linda Kerber, *Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America*, (1980).

Gerda Lerner "The Lady and the Mill Girl" *American Studies*, 10:1 (Spring 1969).

John Mack Farragher, *Women and Men on the Overland Trail*, (1979)

Christine Stansell, *City of Women: Sex and Class in New York, 1789-1860*, (1986).

Susan Strasser, *Never Done: A History of American Housework*, (1982).

Michael Zakim, *Ready Made Democracy: A History of Men's Dress in the American Republic, 1760-1860*, (2003). See especially Chapter 5 and 6. (SH)

## Week 6: The Culture of Failure

### Assigned Reading:

Edward J. Balleisen, 'Vulture Capitalism in Antebellum America: The 1841 Federal Bankruptcy Act and the Exploitation of Financial Distress,' *The Business History Review* 70 (Winter 1996): 473-516.

### Primary Source:

Edward Clay, *The Times* (1837) Lithograph. (CW).

### Additional Reading:

Tyler Anbinder, *Five Points: The 19<sup>th</sup> Century New York City Neighbourhood that Invented Tap Dance, Stole Elections and Became the World's Most Notorious Slum*, (2001).

Edward J. Balleisen, *Navigating Failure: Bankruptcy and Commercial Society in Antebellum America*, (2001).

Peter J. Coleman, *Debtors and Creditors in America: Insolvency, Imprisonment for Debt and Bankruptcy, 1607-1900*, (1974).

Pete Daniel, 'Up from Slavery and Down to Peonage: The Alonzo Bailey Case' *The Journal of American History* 57:3 (Dec., 1970): 654-670.

Andrea R. Foughi, 'Vine and Oak: Wives and Husbands Cope With the Financial Panic of 1857' *Journal of Social History*, 36:4 (Summer, 2003): 1009-1032.

Oz Frankel, 'Hard Facts for Hard Times: Social Knowledge and Social Crisis in the Nineteenth Century,' *Common-Place: Special Issue Hard Times* 10:3 (April 2010) at [www.common-place.org](http://www.common-place.org)

Steve Hahn, *The Roots of Southern Populism: Yeomen Farmers and the Transformation of the Georgia Upcountry, 1850-1890*, (1983).

Bruce Mann, *Republic of Debtors: Bankruptcy in the Age of American Independence*, (2002).

Cathy Matson, "Flimsy Fortunes: Americans' old relationship with paper speculation and panic' *Common-Place: Special Issue Hard Times* 10:3 (April 2010) at [www.common-place.org](http://www.common-place.org)

Drew McCoy, *The Elusive Republic: Political Economy in Jeffersonian America*, (1980).

Sharon Ann Murphy, "Doomed to eat the bread of dependency?' Insuring the middle-class against hard times, *Common-Place: Special Issue Hard Times* 10:3 (April 2010) at [www.common-place.org](http://www.common-place.org)

Edwin T. Randall, 'Imprisonment for Debt in America: Fact and Fiction' *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review* 39:1 (Jun., 1952): 89-102.

Roger L. Ransom and Richard Sutch, 'Debt Peonage in the Cotton South after the Civil War' *The Journal of Economic History* 32:3 (Sep., 1972): 641-669.

Scott Sandage, *Born Losers: A History of Failure in America*, (2005).

Wendy A. Woloson, 'In Hock: Pawning in America' *Journal of the Early Republic* 27:1 (Spring 2007): 35-81.

Robert E. Wright *One Nation Under Debt: Hamilton, Jefferson and the History of What We Owe* (2008).

## **Week 8: Confidence and Counterfeits: Trust in a Capitalist Economy**

### **Assigned Reading:**

Stephen Mihm, *A Nation of Counterfeiters: Capitalists, Con-Men and the Making of the United States*, (2007), pp. 1-19 and 209-259.

### **Primary Source:**

Herman Melville, *The Confidence Man: His Masquerade* (1857), pp. 1-31. **Google Books.**

### **Additional Reading:**

Joanna Cohen, "The Right to Purchase is as Free as the Right to Sell': Defining Consumers as Citizens in the Auction-house Conflicts of the Early Republic," *The Journal of the Early Republic*, 30:1 (Spring 2010): 25-62.

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (1991) Chapter 3.

Daniel S. Dupre, "The Panic of 1819 and the Political Economy of Sectionalism" in *The Economy of Early America: Historical Perspectives & New Directions*. Cathy D. Matson, (ed.) (2006). (SH)

Ann Fabian, *Card Sharps and Bucket Shops: Gambling in Nineteenth Century America* (1999)

Karen Haltunnen, *Confidence Men and Painted Women: A Study of Middle Class Culture* (1986)

Bray Hammond, *Banks and Politics in America from the Revolution to the Civil War*, (1957).

David Hochfelder, 'Where the Common People Could Speculate: The Ticker, Bucket Shops and the Origins of Popular Participation in Financial Markets, 1880-1920' *The Journal of American History* 93:2 (Sept., 2006): 335-358.

Jane Kamensky, *The Exchange Artist: A Tale of High Flying Speculation and America's First Banking Collapse*, (2008).

Jackson Lears, *Something for Nothing: Luck in America* (2004)

Jessica Lepler, 'Pictures of Panic: Constructing hard times in words and images' *Common-Place: Special Issue Hard Times* 10:3 (April 2010) at [www.common-place.org](http://www.common-place.org)

Jonathan Ira Levy, "Contemplating Delivery: Futures Trading and the Problem of Commodity Exchange in the United States, 1875-1905' *The American Historical Review*, 111:2 (April 2006): 307-335.

Cathy Matson, 'The Ambiguities of Risk in the Early Republic' *The Business History Review* 78:4 (Winter, 2004): 595-606.

Patrick E. McLearn, 'Speculation, Promotion, and the Panic of 1837 in Chicago,' *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* 62:2 (Summer, 1969): 135-146.



## Week 9: Buying the American Dream

### Assigned Reading:

Daniel Horowitz, "Consumption and Its Discontents: Simon N. Patten, Thorstein Veblen, and George Gunton," *The Journal of American History*, 67:2 (Sep. 1980) 301-317.

### Primary Source:

Browse the Baker Library Trade Card Collection  
[http://www.library.hbs.edu/hc/19th\\_century\\_tcard/](http://www.library.hbs.edu/hc/19th_century_tcard/)

### Additional Reading:

Elaine Abelson, *When Ladies Go A-Thieving: Middle Class Shoplifters in the Victorian Department Store*, (1989).

Susan Porter Benson, *Counter Cultures: Saleswomen, Managers and Customers in American Department Stores, 1890-1940*, (1986). (SH)

Regina Lee Blaszczyk, *Imagining Consumers: Design and Innovation from Wedgwood to Corning*, (2000).

T.H Breen, *The Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped American Independence*, (2004).

Linzy A Brekke, "The 'Scourge of Fashion': Political Economy and the Politics of Consumption in the Early Republic." *Early American Studies* (Spring 2005): 106-39.

Richard Wightman Fox, and T. J. Jackson Lears, eds. *The Culture of Consumption: Critical Essays in American History, 1880-1980*. (1983).

Daniel Horowitz, *The Morality of Spending: Attitudes Towards the Consumer Society in America, 1875-1940*, (1992). (SH)

William R. Leach, *Land of Desire: Merchants, Power and the Rise of a New American Culture*, (1994).

T.J. Jackson Lears, *Fables of Abundance: A Cultural History of Advertising in America*, (1994).

Roland Marchand, *Advertising the American Dream: Making Way for Modernity, 1920-1940*, (1985). (SH)

Ted Ownby, *American Dreams in Mississippi: Consumers, Poverty and Culture, 1830-1998*, (1999).

Kathy Lee Peiss, *Hope in a Jar: The Making of America's Beauty Culture*, (1998).

Eric Leigh Schmidt, *Consumer Rites: The Buying and Selling of American Holidays*, (1995).

Thorstein Veblen, *The Theory of the Leisure Class: An Economic Study in the Evolution of Institutions*, (1899).

## **Week 10: The Promise of Wealth and the Problem of Labour.**

### **Assigned Reading:**

Matthew Pratt Guterl, 'After Slavery: Asian Labor, the American South, and the Age of Emancipation' *Journal of World History*, 14:2 (June, 2003): 209-241.

### **Additional Reading:**

Matthew Frye Jacobsen, *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race* (1998).

Neil Foley, *The White Scourge: Mexicans, Blacks and Poor Whites in Texas Cotton Culture* (1997).

Eric Foner, *Nothing But Freedom: Emancipation and its Legacy* (1983).

Susan Glenn, *Daughters of the Shtetl: Life and Labor in the Immigrant Generation*, (1990). (SH).

Rick Halpern, 'Solving the Labour Problem': Race, Work and the State in the Sugar Industries of Louisiana and Natal, 1870-1910' *Journal of Southern African Studies* 30:1 (Mar., 2004): 19-40.

Susan Lee Johnson, *Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush* (1990).

Moon-Ho Jung, 'Outlawing 'Coolies': Race, Nation and Empire in the Age of Emancipation,' *American Quarterly* 57:3 (Sep., 2005): 677-701.

Moon-Ho Jung *Coolies and Cane: Race, Labor and Sugar in the Age of Emancipation* (2006).

Annelise Orleck, *Common Sense and a Little Fire: Women and Working Class Politics in the United States* (1995). (SH).

Robert Orsi, *The Madonna of 115<sup>th</sup> Street: Faith and Community in Italian Harlem, 1880-1950* (1985).

Gunther Peck, *Re-inventing Free Labor: Padrones and Immigrant Workers in the North American West 1880-1930*, (2000). (SH).

David R. Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness: Race and the Making of the American working Class*, (1991).

Ronald Takaki, *Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans*, (1989).

Judy Yung, *Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco*, (1995).

## **Week 11: Culture in the Age of the Corporation**

### **Assigned Reading:**

Alan Trachtenberg, *The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age* (1982) Chapter 2.

### **Additional Reading:**

Edward Ayers, *Southern Crossing: A History of the American South, 1890-1940*, (1995).

Sven Beckert, *Monied Metropolis: New York City and the Consolidation of the American Bourgeoisie, 1850-1896*, (2001).

Paul Boyer, *Urban Masses and Moral Order in America, 1820-1920*, (1978).

Andrew Carnegie, *The Empire of Business*, (1903).

Alfred D. Chandler, *The Visible Hand: The Managerial Revolution in American Business*, (1977) .

Lewis A. Erenberg, *Steppin Out: New York Nightlife and the Transformation of American Culture, 1890-1930*, (1981).

Herbert Gutman, *Work, Culture and Society in Industrializing America*, (1977). (SH)

John Kasson, *Amusing the Millions: Coney Island at the Turn of the Century*, (1978).

John Kasson, *Civilizing the Machine: Technology and Republican Values in America, 1776-1900*, (1976).

Jackson Lears, *No Place of Grace: Antimodernism and the Transformation of American culture*, (1983). (SH)

Jackson Lears, *Rebirth of a Nation: the Making of Modern America, 1877-1920*, (2009).

Leo Marx, *The Machine in the Garden: Technology and Pastoral Ideal in America*, (1964).

Kathy Peiss, *Cheap Amusements: Working Women and Leisure in Turn-of-the-Century New York*, (1986).

Roy Rosenzweig, *Eight Hours for what We Will: Workers and Leisure in an Industrial City, 1870-1920*, (1983).

Ida M. Tarbell, *The History of the Standard Oil Company*, (1904). (SH)

Alan Trachtenberg, *The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age*, (1982).

Daniel T. Rodgers, *The Work Ethic in Industrial America, 1850-1920*, (1978).

Robert H. Wiebe, *The Search for Order, 1877-1920*, (1980).

## Week 12: Cultural Imperialism and Capitalist Dreams

### Assigned Reading:

Kristin Hoganson, 'Cosmopolitan Domesticity: Importing the American Dream, 1865-1920' *The American Historical Review* 107:1 (Feb., 2002): 55-83.

### Additional Reading:

Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish American War and the Philippine American War* (2000)

Walter LaFeber, *The New Empire: An Interpretation of American Expansion, 1860-1898* (1963). (SH)

Amy Kaplan and Donald E. Pease. *Cultures of United States Imperialism, New Americanists*. (1993.) (SH).

Amy Kaplan, *The Anarchy of Empire in the Making of U.S. Culture* (2002). (SH)

Mary Renda, *Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of US Imperialism* (2001) (SH)

Emily Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream: American Economic and Cultural Expansion, 1890-1945* (1992).

Emily Rosenberg, *Financial Missionaries: the Politics & Culture of Dollar Diplomacy, 1900-1930*, (1999).

Robert Rydell, *All the World's a Fair: Visions of Empire at American International Expositions, 1876-1916* (1984).

Laura Wexler, *Tender Violence: Domestic Visions in an Age of U.S Imperialism* (2000) (SH)

William Appleman Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy* (rev. ed. 1991).

## Assessment Instructions

Short Literature Review: 1,500 words (20%)

Gobbet Exercise: 1,500 words (15%)

Research Proposal and Bibliography: 1,000 words (15%)

Research Essay: 2,500 words (50%)

### 1. Short Literature Review (20%)

The aim of this assessment is to use current scholarship to identify themes and topics of interest to you within the broader historiography. This skill allows you to do several things. First, it enables you to create a bibliography of books and articles that will give you an in-depth knowledge of a subject. Second, it allows you to learn what historians have already said about a given topic and weigh up the strength of the research on your chosen subject. Third, it enables you to see if there are any gaps in the current scholarship, helping you identify areas for new research and ultimately make way for an original project of your own.

The end product of the Short Literature Review will be a 1,500 word essay that examines the current research on the history of capitalism in the Early Republic. Your essay will identify ONE book and TWO articles and characterize the argument of each piece. It will examine how these pieces of writing support or challenge one another and will identify the strengths and weaknesses of the three pieces of writing, both individually and collectively. Finally, your review will discuss ideas or areas that require further research.

To locate these THREE items you will use the footnotes of the following article, which is the assigned reading for Week 2.

Paul Gilje, "The Rise of Capitalism in the Early Republic," *The Journal of the Early Republic*, 16, (Summer 1996): 159-181.

**Your essay must focus on ONE of the following topics:**

- 🕒 **Money and Banking**
- 🕒 **Transportation and Communications**
- 🕒 **Land and the Frontier**
- 🕒 **Industrialization**
- 🕒 **Consumerism**
- 🕒 **Capitalist mentalities and ideologies**

**TIP: when choosing your book and articles make sure they were published at different times so that you can see how historians' ideas on this topic have developed.**

## 2. Gobbet Exercise (15%)

The aim of this assessment is to develop your skills at locating primary sources and using those sources to build up evidence of past events, ideas, social structures and cultural frameworks.

The end product of the Gobbet Exercise will be a 1500 word essay that discusses TWO primary sources in depth. Your essay will contextualize each source, discuss their content in detail and describe the wider uses and implications of these two sources for historians. You should explain what these two sources together could show us about the past.

Your FIRST Primary Source must be one that we have read for class, between Weeks 3-9 inclusive. Your SECOND Primary Source should be one that you find for yourself. The websites below will provide you with a wide range of digitized sources but you can also use the resources at the British Library, in particular the Newspaper Collections held at Colindale.

- 🕒 American Antiquarian Society Digital Exhibitions  
<http://www.americanantiquarian.org/exhibitions.htm>
- 🕒 American Memory at the Library of Congress  
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>
- 🕒 Baker Library at Harvard Digital Exhibitions  
<http://www.library.hbs.edu/hc/exhibits/index.html>
- 🕒 The Emergence of American Advertising, Duke University  
<http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/aaa/>
- 🕒 Historic Moneys in the University of North Carolina Collection  
<http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/money/>
- 🕒 IMPAC, The Library Company's Digital Collections  
<http://lcpdams.librarycompany.org:8881/R?RN=730312805>
- 🕒 Making of America (Cornell)  
<http://digital.library.cornell.edu/m/moa/>
- 🕒 Making of America (Michigan)  
<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/>
- 🕒 NYPL Digital Gallery  
<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/explore/dgexplore.cfm>
- 🕒 Quakers and Slavery

[http://trilogy.brynmawr.edu/speccoll/quakersandslavery/primary\\_sources/index.php](http://trilogy.brynmawr.edu/speccoll/quakersandslavery/primary_sources/index.php)

### **3. Research Proposal and Bibliography (15%)**

The aim of this assessment is to design a research project that you could carry out and complete in a year. It is an opportunity to produce a design for a project that would, if carried out, result in original research on the history of American capitalism in the nineteenth century.

The end product of the Research Proposal is a 1000 word proposal NOT including your bibliography. The proposal should outline a research question and explain its significance. The proposal must describe and locate the relevant primary sources for the question. The proposal will also indicate how the question will contribute to the existing historiography. In addition, you must produce a substantial bibliography of secondary source materials that would support research on this question and provide the basis for a future literature review. Your bibliography must be formatted correctly in accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style.

### **4. Research Essay (50%)**

The aim of this assessment is to demonstrate your deeper understanding of the history of American capitalism.

You should choose ONE of the following questions and write a 2,500 word essay NOT including your bibliography.

- a) What was capitalist about slavery in antebellum America?
- b) How did ideas about class change in America? Your answer should discuss *either* the period 1776 to 1850 *or* 1850 to 1917?
- c) To what extent did the market revolution provide opportunities for American women?
- d) How did American attitudes to debt change between 1776 and 1917?
- e) 'American capitalism grew out of cons and confidence schemes.' Discuss.
- f) How did American attitudes towards consumption change between 1776 and 1917?
- g) How did the rise of the corporation in the late nineteenth century change American culture?

#### **Deadlines**

**Short Literature Review: Friday Week 6 (February 17, 2012)**

**Gobbet Exercise: Friday Week 9 (March 9, 2012)**

**Research Proposal and Bibliography: Friday Week 12 (March 30, 2012)**

**Research Essay: April 30, 2012.**

### **Coursework Submission**

You must submit two copies of all pieces of coursework

- ⌚ A paper copy must be placed in the History Department Essay Box with a departmental coversheet attached.
- ⌚ An electronic copy must be submitted on Blackboard.

Both copies of your coursework must be submitted by noon on the date of submission. If you have any trouble submitting either copy of your essay you should contact the History Office immediately. It is **your responsibility** to ensure that both copies of your coursework have been submitted correctly and on time.

As indicated in the Student Handbook, the Department employs a very strict policy with regard to coursework submissions. Five marks will be deducted for each day that the assignment is overdue, not including weekends, bank holidays, and those days on which the office is closed. Extensions can be authorized only the Senior Tutor, on the basis of appropriate documentation.

### ***An important note on plagiarism***

Plagiarism is defined on page 33 of the Undergraduate Handbook as ‘the failure to properly credit the writings or ideas of another person that you have used in your own work. In such cases you are, deliberately or inadvertently, attempting to pass their work off as your own.’

Both ‘conscious plagiarism’ (deliberately copying someone else’s work) and ‘unconscious plagiarism’ (from poor note taking or accidental omission of quotation marks) are examination offences. **The penalty for plagiarism is a zero mark.**

Plagiarism is avoided by always making sure you put direct quotes in quotation marks and adding footnotes to reference your source. However, if your essay is simply a series of quotations strung together then this too constitutes a form of plagiarism. You should endeavor to paraphrase and summarize other peoples’ ideas carefully and conscientiously when writing your essays and **always** add footnotes to reference the source. If you have any questions please ask for help.