

Econ2143/Gov2090/Hist2143  
The Political Economy of the United States  
from the Revolution through Reconstruction

Bowdoin College, Fall 2015  
Monday and Wednesday, 1:00:25, Searles315

Prof. Patrick Rael (History)

Office: 211C Hubbard

TuTh2:00-4:00,J ET TJ ET Q q 0.24 0 0 0.24 99.6001 515.28 cm BT 0.0071 Tc 41 0 0 41 0 0 Tm /TT4 1 Tf [ (ex) -1 (p) -1 (l) 3 (o) -1 (

Position papers: In two position papers students will explore how given documents reflect on course themes. Each paper will be a formal paper of 6-8 pages in length (1" margins, double spaced). These papers are due both electronically and in hardcopy on Friday, October 9 and Friday, November 20. The deadline in each instance is 5:00 p.m. for electronic submission via Blackboard, and approximately the same time in hardcopy in Hubbard Hall.

Final paper: The final will be a take-home paper due at the end of the formally scheduled final time, which is noon, December 17. The paper is due



Sept. 28 How wide the empire of liberty? (SM)

Central question What did Jefferson and other statesmen in the early United States mean by speaking of the country as an "empire," and what were the principled and practical constraints on its domain?

READINGS:

Arthur P. Whitaker, *The Western Hemisphere Idea: Its Rise and Decline* (Cornell University Press, 1954), ch. 2: "Political Expression of the Idea: the American System."

RECOMMENDED:

George Washington, Excerpts from the President's Farewell Address, Sept. 17, 1796; Henry Steele Commager, ed., *Documents of American History* (Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1958)

Henry Clay, Excerpt from "South American Independence," 1823

Oct. 14	<p>Nullification and compromise (SM)</p> <p>Central question: The Civil War has cast a long shadow over the mantra of "states' rights." Some mantra was heard well before the war, during the nullification controversy of 1823. What rights were at stake? Do you see the same shadow?</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <p>Merrill D. Peterson, "The Olive Branch and the Sword: The Compromise of 1850," Louisiana State University Press, 1982)</p> <p>Mathew Carey, "The New Olive Branch: A Solemn Warning on the Banks of the Rubicon, No. 1," with annotations by Condé Raguet, "The Banner of the Constitutioned." Condé Raguet, Aug. 25, 1830.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED:</p> <p>Gov. James Hamilton, Extract of Message to the Legislature of South Carolina, "The Banner of the Constitution," Dec. 28, 1831.</p>
Oct. 19	<p>The second party system and slavery (PR)</p> <p>Central question: What circumstances led to the formation of the second party system? What role did slavery play in shaping the system?</p> <p>READINGS: Leonard L. Richards, "The Slave Power: The Free North and Southern Domination, 1820-1860" (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2000), ch. 5 [Blackboard].</p>
Oct. 21	<p>Currency, credit, and crisis (SM)</p> <p>Central question: State and adjudicate the Whigs' and Democrats' allegations of each other's responsibility for the Panic of 1837. How are the allegations rooted in different notions of what makes a "good" system of credit?</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <p>Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., "Panic and Divorce of Bank and State," chs. XVIII and XIX, "The Age of Jackson" (Little, Brown &amp; Co., 1945).</p>



Dec. 2 Protectionism and revenue reform (SM)

Central question What postbellum political and ideological skirmishes grew out of the system of Civil War finance and what were the sides?

READINGS:

Herbert Ronald Ferleger, "The Man and His Background" and "Indiscriminate Protection Exposed," ch in David A. Wells and the American Revenue System, 1865 (Porcupine Press, [1942] 1977).

Henry C. Carey, "Conclusion" of "Review of