

This course in 19th century U.S. history traces major developments and debates in the United States between roughly 1820 and 1920. Those include the evolution and legacies of slavery, the evolution of ideas of citizenship and national identity, the push for territorial expansion, and the rise of women's political and electoral activism. We'll be looking at these issues from a variety of perspectives that reflect both established and newer scholarship, reading the equivalent of a book a week. The course is designed to help students prepare for teaching and/or comprehensive exams and to assist in clarifying and furthering their own research interests. To that end, grades will be based on a number of short assignments that allow students to practice the skills they will use professionally. We'll also be discussing a professional development topic each week and helping each other consider how to approach some of the very specific dilemmas unique to being a historian.