

Historical Studies B-41
Inventing New England: History, Memory, and the Creation of a Regional Identity
<http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~hsb41/>

Tuesday-Thursday 11-12

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Course Description

Much of what we think we know about “colonial” New England was actually a 19th-century invention. Iconic images of the first Thanksgiving, the Salem witch trials, Paul Revere's ride, and white-spired churches overlooking village greens were largely produced by public commemorations, poems, novels, family histories, and exhibits created long after the fact. This course explores these 19th-century inventions in the light of current scholarship on the history of early New England. Students will explore artifacts, images, and landscapes as well as written documents.

Reading

The following **books** are available at the Coop, at Harvard Bookstore, and on reserve at Lamont.

Apess, *Son of the Forest and Other Writings* (U. Mass. Press)
Fischer, *Paul Revere's Ride* (Oxford)
Godbeer, *Escaping Salem* (Oxford)
Hawthorne, *House of the Seven Gables* (Penguin)
Longfellow, *Selected Poems*, ed. Buell (Penguin)
Stowe, *The Minister's Wooing* (Penguin)
Ulrich, *Age of Homespun* (Vintage)
Young, *Shoemaker and the Tea Party* (Beacon)

There will also be a **course reader**, for purchase and on reserve at Lamont. **Other materials** will be available on the course website. See detailed schedule below.

Sections

Sections will begin the week of February 14. For each section, please come prepared to discuss the reading listed on the syllabus for that week. Most weeks we will also post study questions on the course web site.

Exams

The core program requires a midterm and a final. Both exams will include short-answer

and essay questions. With *prior permission* students who are writing senior theses may omit the midterm and answer an extra section on the final.

Papers

1. You will write a short (3-4 page) paper interpreting *one* of the following events:

King Philip's War (due March 6)

Boston Massacre (due April 10)

Because these papers are based on readings assigned for section in the week they are due, there can be no late papers. We will post more detailed instructions on the course website.

2. Your 6-8 page final paper (due May 11) interprets a historic site, monument, artifact, or commemorative event using materials assigned in class and on the course website. There are dozens of topics to choose from. We'll post suggestions and detailed instructions on the course website later in the semester.

Group assignments

1. Your group will act as curators for a "virtual exhibit" created on the "Interactive Kitchen" section of the course website and e-mail the results to your TF before section the week of Feb. 21.
2. Your group will complete a photo scavenger hunt and report the results in section the week of May 2.

Grading

Midterm 10%

Final 25%

First Paper 15%

Second Paper 20%

Section (including the two group assignments) 30%

SCHEDULE

February 2 What this course is about

February 7 History and Memory

February 9 Inventing Harvard

1. Ulrich, *Age of Homespun*, Preface and Introduction, pp. 3-40

2. Selections in Course Reader

Nissenbaum, Stephen. "New England as Region and Nation." In *All Over the Map: Rethinking American Regions*, edited by Edward Ayers, et al. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996. 39-61.

Adams, John, "Letter 75." In *Familiar Letters of John Adams and his wife Abigail Adams during the Revolution*, edited by Charles Francis Adams. New York:

Cambridge Riverside, 1876. 120-121.

3. Explore "Inventing Harvard" on the course web-site and come to lecture on February 9 prepared to answer the question, "When did Harvard become colonial?"
4. Start reading *The House of the Seven Gables*.

February 14 Romancing the Past

February 16 Fiction in the Kitchen

Finish *The House of the Seven Gables*.

Read in course reader:

James, Henry. "The New Harvard," and "Salem."

Conforti, Joseph A. "Heritage and Americanization: 'Restoring' the House of the Seven Gables." In *Imagining New England: Explorations of Regional Identity from the Pilgrims to the Mid-Twentieth Century*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001. 248-262, 354-357.

FIRST SECTION MEETS THIS WEEK

February 21 Pilgrims, Puritans, and Quakers

February 23 The Witch Puzzle

Read Godbeer, *Escaping Salem*

February 28 Why Indians disappear

March 2 Skeletons in the New England closet

1. Read *Age of Homespun*, "An Indian Basket" and either "Molly Ocket's Pocketbook," "A Chimney-piece," or "A Woodsplint Basket," pp. 41-74, 142-173, 248-276, 340-373.

2. Read Longfellow "Skeleton in Armor," "Hiawatha's Fasting," and "The Courtship of Miles Standish," in *Selected Poems*, pp. 335-340, 83-91, 91-147.

3. Read the following selections in the reader:

Bradford, William. "First Thanksgiving." *Of Plimoth Plantation* 2000, 90.

"Records of the Old Colony Club." *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society* 3 (1887): 382-383, 400-405, 417-418.

Hale, Sarah Josepha. "Thanksgiving Dinner." In *Northwood; or, Life North and South: Showing the Character of Both*. New York: H. Long and Brother, 1852. 87-97.

Kamensky, Jane. "Thankstaking." *Common-place* 2001, 1-5.

Stark, John. "Antiquities in North America," *American Monthly Magazine* (1836): 67-70

Mason, Otis T. "Skeleton in Armor." *American Anthropologist* (April 1888): 189-190

Axtell, James, "The Vengeful Women of Marblehead: Robert Roules's Deposition of 1677." *William and Mary Quarterly* 31, no. 4 (1974): 646-652.

March 7 Indian removal and New England history

March 9 King Philip's Ghost

1. Read William Apess, *Son of the Forest and Other Writings* (pps. ix-xxv, 1-73, 88-93, 103-138)

1. Read materials on "King Philip" in reader:

Easton, John. "A Relation of the Indyan Warre." In *Narratives of the Indian Wars*, edited by Charles Henry Lincoln. New York: Scribner and Sons, 1913. 3-17.

Lepore, Jill: "Wigwam words." *American Scholar* 70 (Winter 2001): .97-108.

Stone, John Augustus. "Metamora, or, The Last of the Wampanoags." In *Dramas from the American Theatre, 1762-1909*, edited by Richard Moody. Cleveland, OH: World Publishing Company, 1966. 205-227.

FIRST EVENT PAPER DUE

March 14 How we know what we know about the past

March 16 Monuments, markers, and museums

1. Explore the Old-Time New England Farm House site and complete group project. Details will be posted on the Assignments section of the website.
2. There are suggested readings on the website. Work with your group to make sure you have enough information to produce credible annotations of the objects you use in your exhibit.

GROUP PROJECT DUE

March 21 Review

March 23 Mid-Term

NO SECTION

SPRING BREAK

April 4 The sentimental novel as history

April 6 Slavery and Anti-slavery in revolutionary New England

1. Read Stowe, *A Minister's Wooing*, as assigned.
2. Read "A Bed Rug and a Silk Embroidery," in *The Age of Homespun*, pp. 208-247
3. Read, Longfellow, "Jewish Cemetery at Newport," *Collected Poems*, p. 381

April 11 Sailors, soldiers, and urban riots

April 13 Remembering John and Abigail

1. Read *The Shoemaker and The Tea party*, Part I
2. Read materials in reader on the Boston Massacre:
Doggett, John, Jr. *A Short Narrative of the Horrid Massacre in Boston*. Boston: Edes & Gill, 1849. 3-9, 12-39, 90-91.

Nell, William Cooper. *The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution*. 13-20. New York: Arno Press and The New York Times, 1968.

Goodell, A. C. "The Boston Massacre" *Boston Daily Advertiser*. May 24 1887.

Haskell, Dave. "Boston Massacre Re-enactment." United Press International, March 4 2002.

3. Read "Summation of John Adams" on the 'WWW Links' page of the website under the 'Revolution' heading.

SECOND EVENT PAPER DUE

April 18 Ordinary men and forgotten women

April 20 The politics of memory

1. Read *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party*, part II
2. Explore the "Tea Museum" on course website.

April 25 Revolution and Civil War

April 27 Minutemen (guest lecture)

1. Read, Fischer, *Paul Revere's Ride*, pp. 44-164, 327-344
2. Read Longfellow, "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere." P. 148, "Slave Singing at Midnight," p. 347, "Arsenal at Springfield," p. 349

May 2 The problem of the summer

May 4 Review for exam

PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT DUE IN SECTION

May 11 Final paper due

May 18 Final exam (tentative schedule)

