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

Professor Laurel Ulrich
Robinson 121
ulrich@fas.harvard.edu
Office Hours: Thurs. 1-3

Head TF Philip Mead
Robinson L31
mead@fas.harvard.edu
Office Hours: Tues. 2-4

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

2. Selections in Course Reader

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:

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


   3. Read the following selections in the reader:


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:


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.

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.
   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

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)