COURSE DESCRIPTION: In ways great and small, the American Revolution touched the life of every person who lived through it and profoundly influenced the subsequent history of the United States. Indeed, the Revolution has been called "the most crucial event in American history." This course traces conditions that culminated in revolution and warfare, examines the remarkable amount of political experimentation that led to the creation of a unique republic, considers how ordinary men and women responded to and shaped events, and assesses the impact of the Revolutionary era upon American development. In addition, the course considers how representations and memories of the Revolution have changed over the span of American history--and to what effect. Assigned readings include both modern scholarly accounts and eighteenth-century documents. Students are encouraged to explore the many facets and the continuing legacies and challenges of the nation's founding epoch.

COURSE CREDITS: For all undergraduate students, History 344 is a 4-credit course. The fourth credit is for the required weekly discussion sections.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Books (available for purchase at the University Book Store on State Street):
- Bailyn, Bernard. To Begin the World Anew: The Genius and Ambiguities of the American Founders
- Bonwick, Colin. The American Revolution (2nd edition)
- Ketcham, Ralph (ed.). The Anti-Federalist Papers and the Constitutional Convention Debates
- Lee, Jean B. The Price of Nationhood: The American Revolution in Charles County
- Paine, Thomas. Common Sense
- Silverman, Kenneth (ed.). The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
- Wilkins, Roger. Jefferson’s Pillow: The Dilemma of Black Patriotism

Course packet (available at Bob's Copy Shop, 616 University Avenue; phone 257-4536).

Note:
- Weekly reading assignments begin on page 4 of this syllabus.
- All assigned books and the course packet are also on three-hour reserve at the Helen C. White Undergraduate College Library.

CLASS SCHEDULE:
Sept. 5 Introductory Session
Sept. 7 Mystic Chords of Memory:
- The American Revolution in Historical Perspective, 1775-1876
Sept. 12 Great Britain and Its Empire
Sept. 14 Colonial Landscapes  
Sept. 19 Degrees of Freedom (1)  
Sept. 21 Degrees of Freedom (2)  
Sept. 26 Evangelicalism and Enlightenment  
Sept. 28 The Theory and Practice of Government  
Oct. 3 Warfare and the Empire  
Oct. 5 Parliamentary Reforms, Colonial Responses  
Oct. 10 Resistance  
Oct. 12 Crisis of the Empire  
Oct. 17 Independence  
Oct. 19 The War for Independence, 1775-77  
Oct. 24 Review for Midterm exam  
Oct. 26 MIDTERM EXAM  
Oct. 31 The War for Independence, 1778-81  
Nov. 2 A Confederation of Sovereign States  
Nov. 7 Crises of the 1780s  
Nov. 9 Creation of the Constitution  
Nov. 14 Preparation for debate on the Constitution  
Nov. 16 DEBATE: Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists  
Nov. 21 Ratification and the Bill of Rights  
Nov. 28 Establishing Federal Government  
Nov. 30 Origins of American Foreign Policy  
Dec. 5 Legitimizing Political Opposition  
Dec. 7 The Contagion of Liberty  
Dec. 12 The Problem of Slavery in an Age of Revolution  
Dec. 14 A Continuing Revolution  
Dec. 20 FINAL EXAM -- 2:45 am Place to be announced.  
Note: The final exam must be taken at the regularly scheduled time.  

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:  
Ari Eisenberg: Office Hours: 1-2 pm Wednesdays; also by appointment  
5260 Humanities Building  
Mark Goldberg: Office Hours: 11 am-noon & 1-2 pm Thursdays  
5260 Humanities Building
DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Every undergraduate should be enrolled in one of the following discussion sections. Read the assigned material before your section, so that you may participate fully and actively in the class. During the semester, the teaching assistants will assign written work designed to help you enhance your analytic, interpretive, and writing skills.

Mondays  12:05 pm  2211 Humanities Bldg.
           2:25 pm  2241 Humanities Bldg.
           3:30 pm  2115 Humanities Bldg.
Tuesdays  1:20 pm  2631 Humanities Bldg.
           3:30 pm  2211 Humanities Bldg.
           4:35 pm  2101 Humanities Bldg.
Wednesdays  9:55 am  2251 Humanities Bldg.
           11:00 am  2251 Humanities Bldg.

GRADING:  40% - Participation in discussion sections (including assigned written work)
           25% - Midterm exam
           35% - Final exam

A WORD ABOUT PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism (submitting someone else's ideas and words as one's own) is a serious offense that will result in a grade of F on the assignment. Should a second offense occur, the course grade will be F.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: According to University policy, a student who expects to be absent from class because of religious holidays must, within the first two weeks of class, notify the instructor (in this case the assigned TA) of the specific date(s) on which s/he will be absent. Students bear the responsibility for arranging make-up assignments. If necessary, reasonable limits on the total number of days claimed by any one student will be set.