The University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Spring Semester 2009  
THE ERA OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

History 344  
T, Th, 9:30-10:45 am  
3650 Humanities Building  

Professor J. B. Lee  
Office: 5102 Humanities  
Office Hrs.: 11 am-noon Tuesdays &  
11:30 – noon, Thursdays  
Also by appointment

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:

Note: All assigned books and the course packet are also on three-hour reserve at the Helen C. White Undergraduate College Library.

Books (available locally at University Bookstore on State Street and at other local vendors):
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
Madison, James, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay, The Federalist Papers (Mentor edition)
Paine, Thomas. Common Sense
Silverman, Kenneth (ed.). Benjamin Franklin’s Autobiography and Other Writings
Wilkins, Roger. Jefferson’s Pillow: The Dilemma of Black Patriotism

Course packet (a packet containing brief essays and contemporary documents is available at Bob’s Copy Shop, 616 University Avenue; phone 257-4536).

CURRENT INFORMATION ON LEARN@UW: Check the History 344 website in Learn@UW for any current postings of information.

CLASS MEETINGS:
Jan. 20 Introductory Session
Jan. 22 Mystic Chords of Memory: The American Revolution in Historical Perspective, 1775-1876
Jan. 27  Great Britain and Its Empire  
Jan. 29  Colonial Landscapes  
Feb. 3   Degrees of Freedom (1)  
Feb. 5   Degrees of Freedom (2)  
Feb. 10  Evangelicalism and Enlightenment  
Feb. 12  The Theory and Practice of Government  
Feb. 17  Warfare and the Empire  
Feb. 19  Parliamentary Reforms, Colonial Responses  
Feb. 24  Resistance  
Feb. 26  Crisis of the Empire  
Mar. 3   Independence  
Mar. 5   The War for Independence, 1775-77  
Mar. 10  The War for Independence, 1778-81  

**Mar. 12  MIDTERM EXAM**

*Note:* The exam must be taken this day.

Mar. 24  “Cultivating the Sensations of Freedom”: Music of the Revolution  
Mar. 26  A Confederation of Sovereign States  
Mar. 31  Crises of the 1780s  
Apr.  2   Creation of the Constitution  
Apr.  7   **PREPARATION FOR DEBATE** on the Constitution  
Apr.  9   **DEBATE:** Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists  
Apr. 14  Ratification and the Bill of Rights  
Apr. 16  Establishing Federal Government  
Apr. 21  Origins of American Foreign Policy  
Apr. 23  Legitimizing Political Opposition  
Apr. 28  The Contagion of Liberty  
Apr. 30  The Problem of Slavery in an Age of Revolution  
May  5   A Continuing Revolution  
May  7   Wrap-up Session  

**May 13  FINAL EXAM (5:05 - 7:05 pm)** Place to be announced.  
*Note:* The final exam must be taken at the regularly scheduled time.  

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS:**

Ronald Binzley:  Office Hours: 11:00-noon, Tuesdays & 11:30-12:30, Thursdays  
                5265 Humanities Building (phone: 263-1868)  

John Coakley:   Office Hours: 1:00-3:00 pm, Thursdays  
                5268 Humanities Building (phone: 263-1868)  

**DISCUSSION SECTIONS:** Every undergraduate should be enrolled in one of the discussion sections listed at the top of page 3. 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.

Tuesdays  1:20 pm  2221 Humanities Bldg.
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>2:25 pm</td>
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<td>Wednesdays</td>
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**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.
WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS
History 344 – Spring Semester 2009

Note: Sources preceded by an asterisk (*) are in the Course Packet of photocopies.

WEEK OF JAN. 26:
Alfred F. Young, "George Robert Twelves Hewes (1742-1840): A Boston Shoemaker and the Memory of the American Revolution," *William and Mary Quarterly* 38 (1981): 561-623. (See instructions below for online access.)
Directions for online access to Alfred F. Young's article:
- Login to My UW: > Libraries
- Library Home Page: > Search Shortcuts > Top 10 Databases > JSTOR

WEEK OF FEB. 2:
Documents:
- *Letter from an Indentured Servant, 1756*
- *Washington's Attempt to Import Palatines (i.e., Germans), 1774*

Online:
- Google: Monticello--The Home of Thomas Jefferson
- Link to: House, Garden, & the Plantation > The Plantation > More

At the Plantation link: explore the sections entitled Land, Work, and Lives (in that order). Be sure to follow further links within each of these sections.

WEEK OF FEB. 9:
Lee, *Price of Nationhood*, chap. 3.
Document: *Excerpt from The Second Treatise of Government*, by John Locke

WEEK OF FEB. 16:
Documents (please read in chronological order):
- *Resolutions of the Stamp Act Congress, October 1765*
- *The Declaratory Act, March 1766*

WEEK OF FEB. 23:
Documents (please read in chronological order):
- *Correspondence between Washington and Bryan Fairfax, July 1774 (in 2 parts)*
- *The Fairfax County Resolves, July 18, 1774*
- *Declaration of Colonial Rights and Grievances, by the First Continental Congress,*
October 1774

Week of Mar. 2:
Documents (please read in chronological order):
*Excerpt from the King's Speech Closing Parliament (May 1776)
The Virginia Declaration of Rights, June 1776 [in Bonwick, pp. 288-90]
*The Virginia Gazette, July 23, 1776 (the entire issue)

Week of Mar. 9:

Week of Mar. 23:
Lee, *Price of Nationhood*, chaps. 5-6.
Document: *The Articles of Confederation, 1777*

Week of Mar. 30:

Week of Apr. 6:
James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay, *The Federalist Papers*
Ralph Ketcham, ed., *The Anti-Federalist Papers and the Constitutional Convention Debates*

Week of Apr. 13:

Week of Apr. 20:
Silverman, ed., *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

Week of Apr. 27:
Documents:
*Washington's Farewell Address, 1796
*The Alien and Sedition Acts, 1798
*The Virginia and Kentucky Resolves, 1798-99
*Jefferson's First Inaugural Address, 1801
Directions for online access to Freehling's article:
Login to My UW: > Libraries
WEEK OF MAY 4:

Bernard Bailyn, *To Begin the World Anew: The Genius and Ambiguities of the American Founders*

**Documents:**
- The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, 1786
- Judith Sergeant Murray, "On the Equality of the Sexes," 1790
- Thomas Jefferson's last letters, May & June 1826
- The Seneca Falls Declaration, 1848