THE UNIVERsITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Spring Semester 1993

THE ERA OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

History 344
T, Th, 9:30-10:45 a.m.
1641 Humanities Building

J.B. Lee

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In ways great and small, the American Revolution touched the life of
every person who lived through it and strongly influenced the subsequent history of the United
States. Indeed, the Revolution has been characterized as "the most crucial event in American
history." This course traces conditions that culminated in revolution, examines the remarkable
amount of political experimentation that led to 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.

REQUIRED READINGS: The complete list of readings begins on page 3 of this syllabus. All are
on three-hour reserve at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. In addition, the following titles
are available for purchase at the University Book Store.

Kenneth Silverman (ed.), The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
I.R. Christie, Crisis of Empire: Great Britain and the American Colonies, 1754-1783
Mary Beth Norton, Liberty's Daughters: The Revolutionary Experience of American
Women, 1750-1800
Donald R. Wright, African Americans in the Colonial Era: From African Origins Through
the American Revolution
Marcus Cunliffe, George Washington: Man and Monument
Thomas Paine, Common Sense
James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay, The Federalist Papers (Mentor
dition)
Herbert Storing, What the Anti-Federalists Were For
Thomas Slaughter, The Whiskey Rebellion: Frontier Epilogue to the American Revolution
Merrill Peterson, Adams and Jefferson: A Revolutionary Dialogue

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Jan. 19 Introductory Session
Jan. 21 Mystic Chords of Memory: The American Revolution in Historical Perspective
Jan. 26 Great Britain and Its Empire
Jan. 28 Colonial Landscapes
Feb. 2 The Domestic and International Economies
Feb. 4 Degrees of Freedom
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>&quot;This Species of Property&quot;; The Enslaved</td>
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<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>The Enlightenment</td>
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<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Evangelicalism: The Second Protestant Reformation</td>
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<td>Feb. 18</td>
<td>The Theory and Practice of Government</td>
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<td>Feb. 23</td>
<td>The Seven Years' War</td>
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<td>Feb. 25</td>
<td>Imperial Reforms, Colonial Responses</td>
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<td>Mar. 2</td>
<td>From Resistance to Revolution</td>
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<td>Mar. 4</td>
<td><strong>MID-TERM EXAM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mar. 9, 11</strong></td>
<td><strong>SPRING VACATION</strong></td>
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<td>Mar. 16</td>
<td>Independence</td>
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<td>Mar. 18</td>
<td>War: 1775-77</td>
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<td>Mar. 23</td>
<td>War: 1778-81</td>
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<td>Mar. 25</td>
<td>Civilians in Wartime</td>
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<td>Mar. 30</td>
<td>&quot;Cultivating the Sensations of Freedom&quot;: Musical Reflections of Revolution and War</td>
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<td>Apr. 1</td>
<td>The Confederation</td>
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<td>Apr. 6</td>
<td>The Uncertain Nation: Crises of the 1780s</td>
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<td><strong>PAPER DUE:</strong></td>
<td>A 5-page paper, based on assigned readings related to the War for Independence, is due at the beginning of class.</td>
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<td>Apr. 8</td>
<td>Creation of the Constitution</td>
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<td>Apr. 13</td>
<td>Preparation for the ratification debate</td>
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<td>Apr. 15</td>
<td>Debate: Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists</td>
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<td>Apr. 20</td>
<td>Ratification in the States</td>
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<td>Apr. 22</td>
<td>Launching the Experiment in Republicanism</td>
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<td>Apr. 27</td>
<td>The Importance of the 1790s</td>
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<td>Apr. 29</td>
<td>The Contagion of Liberty</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
<td>The Problem of Slavery in an Age of Revolution</td>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>A Continuing Revolution</td>
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<td>May 12</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
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*The exam is scheduled for 2:45-4:45 pm. The place will be announced toward the end of the course.*
DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Each student should be enrolled in one of the following weekly discussion sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>1:20 pm</td>
<td>2121 Humanities Bldg.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>9:55 am</td>
<td>2221 Humanities Bldg.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>2131 Humanities Bldg.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>12:05 pm</td>
<td>2121 Humanities Bldg.</td>
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Assigned readings must be completed before the section in which the student is enrolled, so that he or she may participate actively and thoughtfully in the discussion.

Readings for the Week of:

**Jan. 25**
- Kenneth Silverman (ed.), *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

**Feb. 1**
- N.B. Members of the Wednesday, Feb. 3, discussion sections should convene, at the regularly scheduled times, in the third-floor Board Room of the State Historical Society. Michael Edmonds, Supervisor of Public Services, will consider "How Do Historians Know What They Know About 18th-Century America?"

**Feb. 8**
- N.B. Members of the Tuesday and Thursday discussion sections should convene, at the regularly scheduled times, in the third-floor Board Room of the State Historical Society. Michael Edmonds, Supervisor of Public Services, will consider "How Do Historians Know What They Know About 18th-Century America?"

**Feb. 15**
- I.R. Christie, *Crisis of Empire: Great Britain and the American Colonies, 1754-1783*, introduction and chaps. 1-5

**Feb. 23**
- Marcus Cunliffe, *George Washington: Man and Monument*
Mar. 1 No discussion sections this week. Should students wish to consult Ms. Wright in advance of the mid-term exam, she will be in her office during the regularly scheduled times of the Tuesday and Wednesday sections.

Mar. 8 SPRING VACATION

Mar. 15 Thomas Paine, Common Sense
The Declaration of Independence

Christie, Crisis of Empire, chap. 6 and conclusion

Mar. 29 N.B. Members of the all discussion sections should convene, at the regularly scheduled times, in the third-floor Board Room of the State Historical Society for a presentation by Ms. Gerry Strey, Map Curator of the Society.

Norton, Liberty's Daughters, chaps. 6-conclusion

Apr. 12 No discussion sections this week. In preparation for the debate on April 15, read James Madison et al., The Federalist Papers (essays no. 1, 6, 9, 10, 14, 39, 47, 51, 52, 62, 69, 78, 85), and Herbert Storing, What the Anti-Federalists Were For.

Apr. 19 Thomas Slaughter, The Whiskey Rebellion: Frontier Epilogue to the American Revolution

Wright, African Americans in the Colonial Era, chap. 3
May 3 Merrill Peterson. *Adams and Jefferson: A Revolutionary Dialogue*

**GRADING:**

- 20% - mid-term exam
- 20% - paper due Apr. 6
- 30% - participation in discussion sections
- 30% - final exam

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Professor Lee: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11-noon; also by appointment 4116 Humanities Building Phone: 263-1661 or 263-1800

Ms. Wright: Wednesdays, noon-1; Thursdays, 11-noon; also by appointment Office and phone numbers to be announced