

The University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Spring Semester 2004

**THE ERA OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

History 344  
T, Th, 2:30-3:45 p.m.  
3650 Humanities Building

Professor J. B. Lee  
Office: 5201 Humanities

**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 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 course of American history. Assigned readings include both modern scholarly accounts and eighteenth-century documents. Students are encouraged to explore the many facets and the continuing legacies of the nation's founding epoch.

**REQUIRED READINGS:** Weekly reading assignments are listed on a separate handout.

The following books are available for purchase at the University Book Store and at the Underground Bookstore, both on State Street; these titles are also on three-hour reserve at the Helen C. White Undergraduate College Library.

Bonwick, Colin. The American Revolution  
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)  
Silverman, Kenneth (ed.). The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin  
Paine, Thomas. Common Sense  
Peterson, Merrill D. Adams and Jefferson: A Revolutionary Dialogue  
Wilkins, Roger. Jefferson's Pillow: The Dilemma of Black Patriotism

Brief items (i.e., essays and documents) should be accessed online.

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

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
Feb. 5	Religion and Revolution in Eighteenth-Century America
Feb. 10	An Enlightened Age
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. 2	Independence
Mar. 4	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
Mar. 9	War: 1775-77
Mar. 11	War: 1778-81
Mar. 16, 18	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
Mar. 23	Musical Reflections of the Revolution
Mar. 25	A Confederation of Sovereign States
Mar. 30	Crises of the 1780s
Apr. 1	Creation of the Constitution
Apr. 6	Preparation for debate on the Constitution
Apr. 8	<b>DEBATE:</b> Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists
Apr. 13	Ratification and the Bill of Rights
Apr. 15	Establishing Federal Government
Apr. 20	Origins of American Foreign Policy
Apr. 22	Legitimizing Political Opposition
Apr. 27	The Contagion of Liberty
Apr. 29	The Problem of Slavery in an Age of Revolution
May 4	Origins of American Patriotism
May 6	A Continuing Revolution

May 11 **FINAL EXAM -- 5:05 pm** Place to be announced.  
(Tuesday)

**DISCUSSION SECTIONS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:** All undergraduates must take History 344 as a four-credit course and be enrolled in one of the following weekly discussion sections:

Mondays	11:00 am	2221 Humanities
	12:05 pm	2619 Humanities
	2:25 pm	2619 Humanities
	3:30 pm	2637 Humanities
Tuesdays	8:50 am	2611 Humanities
	9:55 am	2625 Humanities
Thursdays	12:05 pm	2611 Humanities (Honors Section)
Fridays	9:55 am	2611 Humanities
	11:00 pm	2611 Humanities

**Note:** Each week, students are expected to read the assigned material *before* their discussion section meets, and to participate actively in class discussion.

**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, students who expect to be absent from class work because of religious holidays must, within the first two weeks of class, notify the instructor (in this case the student's 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.

**ASSIGNED READINGS:**

- Jan. 20-23 No discussion sections this week.
- Jan. 26-30 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  
Colin Bonwick, The American Revolution, chap. 1  
Jean B. Lee, The Price of Nationhood, introduction and part 1
- Feb. 2-5
- Feb. 9-13 Bernard Bailyn, "Power and liberty: A Theory of Politics," chap. 3 in The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution  
Bonwick, The American Revolution, chaps. 2-3  
Document: selection from John Locke's Second Treatise of Government
- Feb. 16-20 Thomas Paine, Common Sense  
Document: The Declaratory Act
- Feb. 23-27
- Mar. 1-5 No discussion sections this week. The teaching assistants will arrange a review session prior to the mid-term exam.
- Mar. 8-12 John Shy, "The Military Conflict Considered as a Revolutionary War," A People Numerous and Armed: Reflections on the Military Struggle for American Independence (1st ed.), 193-223  
Lee, The Price of Nationhood, chaps. 5-6
- Mar. 22-26
- Mar. 29-Apr. 2
- Apr. 5-9
- Apr. 12-16

Apr. 19-23

Apr. 26-30

May 3-7

\*Cynthia A. Kierner, "Genteel Balls and Republican Parades: Gender and Early Southern Civic Rituals, 1677-1826," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 104 (1996): 185-210

Documents: \*Letters from Eliza Lucas Pinckney, 1779-82

Document: Peter Oliver's Origin & Progress of the American Revolution: A Tory View, ed. Douglass Adair and John A. Schutz, 46-59