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.

REQUIRED READINGS

Note: All assigned books are available at the University Bookstore on State Street and at other local vendors. The Course Packet, which contains photocopies of brief essays and contemporary documents, is available at Bob's Copy Shop, 616 University Avenue; phone 257-4536). Assigned readings are also on three-hour reserve at the Helen C. White Undergraduate College Library.

Books
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

Online readings: A scholarly article by Alfred Young, to be read before the first class meeting, is available at the History 344 webpage at Learn@UW.

INFORMATION ON LEARN@UW: Check the History 344 website in Learn@UW for any current postings of information, as well as the syllabus and assigned readings.
CLASS SCHEDULE

Note: (1) Sources preceded by an asterisk (*) are in the Course Packet of photocopies.
(2) Sources preceded by a diamond (♦) should be accessed at the Learn@UW webpage for Hisory 344.

WEEK 1
May 24 Introductory Session
Lecture: Mystic Chords of Memory: The American Revolution in Historical Perspective, 1775-1876
Reading assignment:

May 25 Lecture: Great Britain and Its Empire
Lecture: Colonial Landscapes
Reading assignment:

May 26 Lecture: Degrees of Freedom
Reading assignment:
* Letter from an Indentured Servant, 1756
* Washington's Attempt to Import Palatines (i.e., Germans), 1774

May 27 Reading assignment:
Bonwick, American Revolution, chap. 2.
Jean B. Lee, The Price of Nationhood: The American Revolution in Charles County, Introduction and all of Part I (i.e., pp. 3-84).
Lecture: Evangelicalism and Enlightenment

WEEK 2
May 31 Lecture: The Theory and Practice of Government
Reading assignment:
* Excerpt from The Second Treatise of Government, by John Locke.
Bonwick, American Revolution, chap. 3.

June 1 Lecture: Warfare and the Empire
Lecture: Parliamentary Reforms, Colonial Responses
Reading assignment:
* Resolutions of the Stamp Act Congress, October 1765
* The Declaratory Act, March 1766
Lee, Price of Nationhood, chap. 3.
June 2

**Lecture:** Resistance

**Lecture:** Crisis of the Empire

**Reading assignment:**


* Correspondence between Washington and Bryan Fairfax, July 1774

* Declaration of Colonial Rights and Grievances, by the First Continental Congress, October 1774

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (1776)

Lee, *Price of Nationhood*, chap. 4

June 3

**Lecture:** Independence

**Lecture:** The War for Independence, 1775-77

**Reading assignment:**


* Excerpt from the King's Speech Closing Parliament (May 1776)

* *The Virginia Gazette*, July 23, 1776 (scan the entire issue)


June 7

**Midterm Exam --** The exam must be taken this day.

**Post-exam Lecture:** "Cultivating the Sensations of Freedom": Music of the Revolution

June 8

**Lecture:** The War for Independence, 1778-83

**Lecture:** A Confederation of Sovereign States

**Reading assignment:**

Lee, *Price of Nationhood*, chaps. 5-6.

* The Articles of Confederation, 1777.


June 9

**Lecture:** Crises of the 1780s

**Lecture:** Creation of the Constitution

**Planning for in-class debate on the Constitution**

**Reading assignment:**


June 10

**Read & contemplate before the debate:**


Madison, Hamilton, and Jay, *The Federalist Papers* (specific essays to be assigned)

Ralph Ketcham, ed., *The Anti-Federalist Papers and the Constitutional Convention Debates* (specific sections to be assigned).

**Debate:** Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists  (The setting: the final day of the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia. For one last time, the delegates debate the most important issues surrounding the document to be submitted to the states for ratification.)
June 14  Lecture: Ratification and the Bill of Rights  
Lecture: Establishing Federal Government  
Reading assignment:  
Bonwick, *American Revolution*, chap. 9, the Virginia Declaration of Rights (1776), and the Bill of Rights (i.e., the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution).  
Lee, *Price of Nationhood, Part 3.*

June 15  Lecture: Origins of American Foreign Policy  
Lecture: Legitimizing Political Opposition  
Reading assignment:  
* Washington's Farewell Address, 1796  
* The Alien and Sedition Acts, 1798  
* The Virginia and Kentucky Resolves, 1798-99  
* Jefferson's First Inaugural Address, 1801

June 16  Lecture: The Contagion of Liberty and the Problem of Slavery in an Age of Revolution  
Lecture: A Continuing Revolution  
Reading assignment:  
* Judith Sergeant Murray, "On the Equality of the Sexes" (1790)  
* The Seneca Falls Declaration, 1848  
* The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom (1786)  

June 17  FINAL EXAM  (during class time)

GRADING:  
In-class assignments: 30%  
- Midterm exam: 30%  
Final exam: 40%

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.