

The University of Wisconsin-Madison
Fall Semester 2007
THE ERA OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

History 344
T, Th, 9:30-10:45 am
2650 Humanities Building

Professor J. B. Lee
Office: 5102 Humanities
Office Hrs.: 11:00-12:30pm, Wednesday
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 weekly discussion section, which all undergraduates are required to attend.

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

Madison, James, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay, The Federalist Papers (Mentor edition)

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. 4 Introductory Session

Sept. 6 Mystic Chords of Memory:

 The American Revolution in Historical Perspective, 1775-1876

Sept. 11 Great Britain and Its Empire

- Sept. 13 Colonial Landscapes
 Sept. 18 Degrees of Freedom (1)
 Sept. 20 Degrees of Freedom (2)
 Sept. 25 Evangelicalism and Enlightenment
 Sept. 27 The Theory and Practice of Government
 Oct. 2 Warfare and the Empire
 Oct. 4 Parliamentary Reforms, Colonial Responses
 Oct. 9 Resistance
 Oct. 11 Crisis of the Empire
 Oct. 16 Independence
 Oct. 18 **MIDTERM EXAM**
- Oct. 23 The War for Independence, 1775-77
 Oct. 25 The War for Independence, 1778-81
 Oct. 30 "Cultivating the Sensations of Freedom." Music of the American Revolution
 Nov. 1 A Confederation of Sovereign States
 Nov. 6 Crises of the 1780s
 Nov. 8 Creation of the Constitution
 Nov. 13 **PREPARATION** for debate on the Constitution
 Nov. 15 **DEBATE:** Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists
 Nov. 20 Ratification and the Bill of Rights
 Nov. 27 Establishing Federal Government
 Nov. 29 Origins of American Foreign Policy
 Dec. 4 Legitimizing Political Opposition
 Dec. 6 The Contagion of Liberty
 Dec. 11 The Problem of Slavery in an Age of Revolution
 Dec. 13 A Continuing Revolution
- Dec. 19 **FINAL EXAM -- 5:05 pm** Place to be announced.
Note: The final exam must be taken at the regularly scheduled time.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

Maya Golden-Krasner and Christine Lamberson

DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Every undergraduate should be enrolled in one of the following discussion sections. Read the assigned material *before* your section, so that you can 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	2241 Humanities Bldg.
	2:25 pm	B135 Van Vleck
	1:20 pm	2115 Humanities Bldg.
Tuesdays	12:05 pm	7115 Helen C. White
	3:30 pm	B115 Van Vleck
	4:35 pm	2221 Humanities Bldg.
Wednesdays	9:55 am	227 Van Hise

11:00 am 2231 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.