

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 edition)
Herbert Storing, What the AntiFederalists 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

Feb. 9	"This Species of Property": The Enslaved
Feb. 11	The Enlightenment
Feb. 16	Evangelicalism: The Second Protestant Reformation
Feb. 18	The Theory and Practice of Government
Feb. 23	The Seven Years' War
Feb. 25	Imperial Reforms, Colonial Responses
Mar. 2	From Resistance to Revolution
Mar. 4	<u>MID-TERM EXAM</u>
Mar. 9, 11	SPRING VACATION
Mar. 16	Independence
Mar. 18	War: 1775-77
Mar. 23	War: 1778-81
Mar. 25	Civilians in Wartime
Mar. 30	"Cultivating the Sensations of Freedom": Musical Reflections of Revolution and War
Apr. 1	The Confederation
Apr. 6	The Uncertain Nation: Crises of the 1780s
	<u>PAPER DUE:</u> A 5-page paper, based on assigned readings related to the War for Independence, is due at the beginning of class.
Apr. 8	Creation of the Constitution
Apr. 13	<u>Preparation for the ratification debate</u>
Apr. 15	<u>Debate:</u> Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists
Apr. 20	Ratification in the States
Apr. 22	Launching the Experiment in Republicanism
Apr. 27	The Importance of the 1790s
Apr. 29	The Contagion of Liberty
May 4	The Problem of Slavery in an Age of Revolution
May 6	A Continuing Revolution
May 12	<u>FINAL EXAM</u>
	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:

Tuesdays	1:20 pm	2121 Humanities Bldg.
Wednesdays	9:55 am	2221 Humanities Bldg.
Wednesdays	11:00 am	2131 Humanities Bldg.
Thursdays	12:05 pm	2121 Humanities Bldg.

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
Richard B. Morris, "Meet Dr. Franklin," American Heritage 23 (1971):81-91
- 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?"
- Anne Firor Scott, "Self-Portraits," in Women's America: Refocusing the Past, ed. Linda K. Kerber and Jane De Hart Mathews (1982), 65-79.
Mary Beth Norton, Liberty's Daughters: The Revolutionary Experience of American Women, 1750-1800, xiii-xvi and chaps. 1-5
- 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?"
- Donald R. Wright, African Americans in the Colonial Era: From African Origins Through the American Revolution, chaps. 1-2
G.I. Jones and O. Equiano, "Olaudah Equiano of the Niger Ibo," in Africa Remembered: Narratives by West Africans from the Era of the Slave Trade, ed. Phillip D. Curtin, 84-98
- Feb. 15 I.R. Christie, Crisis of Empire: Great Britain and the American Colonies, 1754-1783, introduction and chaps. 1-5
Peter Oliver's Origin & Progress of the American Revolution: A Tory View, ed. Douglass Adair and John A. Schutz, 46-59
- 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
- Mar. 22 John Shy, "The Military Conflict Considered as a Revolutionary War," A People Numerous and Armed: Reflections on the Military Struggle for American Independence, 193-223
Christie, Crisis of Empire, chap. 6 and conclusion
Selections from John C. Dann (ed.), The Revolution Remembered: Eyewitness Accounts of the War for Independence, xv-xxii, 12-14, 26-28, 65-68, 71-77, 145-55, 162-65, 192-204, 240-50, 268-74, 406-14
- 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.
- Apr. 5 Alfred F. Young, "George Robert Twelves Hewes (1742-1840): A Boston Shoemaker and the Memory of the American Revolution," William and Mary Quarterly (1981), 561-623
Norton, Liberty's Daughters, chaps. 6-conclusion
J.B. Lee, "Maryland's 'Dangerous Insurrection' of 1786," Maryland Historical Magazine 85 (1990):329-39
- 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 AntiFederalists Were For.
- Apr. 19 Thomas Slaughter, The Whiskey Rebellion: Frontier Epilogue to the American Revolution
- Apr. 26 Merrill Peterson, "Jefferson's Severest Contest," Virginia Foundation for the Humanities Newsletter (1986):3
William H. Freehling, "The Founding Fathers and Slavery," American Historical Review 77 (1972):81-93
Wright, African Americans in the Colonial Era, chap. 3
Nash, "Forging Freedom: The Emancipation Experience in the Northern Seaport Cities," in Slavery and Freedom in the Age of the American Revolution, ed. Ira Berlin and Ronald Hoffman, 3-48

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