

THE ERA OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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

Jean B. Lee
Spring Semester 1992

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. This course traces conditions in eighteenth-century America that culminated in revolution, examines the remarkable amount of political experimentation that led to creation of the Republic, considers how ordinary men and women responded to and shaped events, and assesses the impact of the Revolutionary era upon subsequent American development.

REQUIRED READINGS: (Note: All readings have been placed on reserve at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.)

Available 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
Bernard Bailyn, The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution
Thomas Paine, Common Sense
Marcus Cunliffe, George Washington: Man and Monument
Michael Kammen (ed.), The Origins of the Constitution: A Documentary History

Available at Kinkos as a packet:

Richard B. Morris, "Meet Dr. Franklin"
Anne Firor Scott, "Self-Portraits"
Winthrop Jordan, "First Impressions"
G.I. Jones and O. Equiano, "Olaudah Equiano of the Niger Ibo"
Ira Berlin, "Time, Space, and the Evolution of Afro-American Society on British Mainland America"
John Shy, "The Military Conflict Considered as a Revolutionary War"
John C. Dann (ed.), selections from The Revolution Remembered
Alfred F. Young, "George Robert Twelves Hewes (1742-1840): A Boston Shoemaker and the Memory of the American Revolution"
Merrill D. Peterson, "Jefferson's Severest Contest"
William Freehling, "The Founding Fathers and Slavery"
Gary B. Nash, "Forging Freedom: The Emancipation Experience in the Northern Seaport Cities, 1775-1820"

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Jan. 21 Introductory Session
 Jan. 23 The American Revolution in Historical Perspective

 Jan. 28 The World in 1776
 Jan. 30 The British Empire in the Eighteenth Century

 Feb. 4 A Land of Diversity: Americans in the Revolutionary Era
 Feb. 6 Film: The Gunsmith of Williamsburg

 Feb. 11 Degrees of Freedom
 Feb. 13 The Enslaved

 Feb. 18 Slide Lecture: Visual Images of Revolutionary America
 Feb. 20 The Enlightenment

 Feb. 25 Evangelicalism
 Feb. 27 The Nature of American Politics

 Mar. 3 The Seven Years' War
 Mar. 5 MID-TERM EXAM

 Mar. 10 SPRING VACATION
 Mar. 12 SPRING VACATION

 Mar. 17 The Stamp Act Crisis
 Mar. 19 From Resistance to Revolution

 Mar. 24 Independence
 Mar. 26 The War Years, 1775-78

 Mar. 31 The War Years, 1778-81
 Apr. 2 Civilians and War

 Apr. 7 Musical Reflections of the American Revolution
 Apr. 9 The Confederation

 Apr. 14 Experiments in Republicanism: The Sovereign States
 Apr. 16 Years of Disillusionment: The Crisis of the 1780s

 Apr. 21 Creation of the Constitution
 Apr. 23 Preparation for the ratification debate

 Apr. 28 Debate: Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists
 Apr. 30 Launching the Experiment in Republicanism

 May 5 Legacies of the Revolutionary Era, Part 1
 May 7 Legacies of the Revolutionary Era, Part 2

READINGS ASSIGNMENTS FOR DISCUSSION SECTIONS:

- Jan. 29 Franklin, Autobiography
Morris, "Meet Dr. Franklin"
- Feb. 5 Christie, Crisis of Empire, introduction & chap. 1
- Feb. 12 Scott, "Self-Portraits"
Norton, Liberty's Daughters, pp. xiii-xvi and chaps. 1-5
PAPER DUE (4 pgs.)
- Feb. 19 Winthrop Jordan, "First Impressions"
Jones and Equiano, "Olaudah Equiano of the Niger Ibo"
Berlin, "Time, Space, and the Evolution of Afro-American Society
on British Mainland North America"
- Feb. 26 Bailyn, Ideological Origins of the American Revolution, chaps. 1-4
- Mar. 4 Christie, Crisis of Empire, chap. 2-5
- Mar. 18 Bailyn, Ideological Origins of the American Revolution, chaps. 5-6
- Mar. 25 Paine, Common Sense
- Apr. 1 Shy, "The Military Conflict Considered as a Revolutionary War"
Christie, Crisis of Empire, chap. 6 and conclusion
Selections from Dann (ed.), The Revolution Remembered
- Apr. 8 Cunliffe, Washington: Man and Monument
- Apr. 15 Young, "George Robert Twelves Hewes (1742-1840): A Boston
Shoemaker and the Memory of the American Revolution"
Norton, Liberty's Daughters, chaps. 6-7
PAPER DUE (4 pgs.)
- Apr. 22 Kammen, Origins of the American Constitution, introduction, pp.
125-26, and Documents No. 1-2, 10-12, 15-17, 19, 22, 24-25,
29, 31-34, 37, 43, 49-50, 52, 54-57, 60, 62-65, 70-71, 74,
78, 80-83, 85
- Apr. 29 Freehling, "The Founding Fathers and Slavery"
Kammen, Origins of the American Constitution, pp. 363-84
- May 6 Peterson, "Jefferson's Severest Contest"
Norton, Liberty's Daughters, chaps. 8-conclusion
Nash, "Forging Freedom: The Emancipation Experience in the
Northern Seaport Cities"

GRADING: 15% for each paper, 20% discussion (including the ratification
debate), 20% mid-term exam, 30% final exam