

The University of Wisconsin-Madison
Spring Semester 1994

THE ERA OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

History 344
T, Th, 9:30-10:45 a.m.
1121 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.

The following titles are also 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

All other readings are also available in two packets of photocopies, which may be purchased at the Copy Center in the Humanities Building, Room 1650.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

- Jan. 25 Introductory Session
Jan. 27 Mystic Chords of Memory: The American Revolution in Historical Perspective

Feb. 1	Great Britain and Its Empire
Feb. 3	Colonial Landscapes
Feb. 8	The Domestic and International Economies
Feb. 10	Degrees of Freedom
Feb. 15	"This Species of Property": The Enslaved
Feb. 17	Evangelicalism: The Second Protestant Reformation
Feb. 22	The Enlightenment
Feb. 24	The Theory and Practice of Government
Mar. 1	The Seven Years' War
Mar. 3	Imperial Reforms, Colonial Responses
Mar. 8	From Resistance to Revolution
Mar. 10	<u>MID-TERM EXAM</u>
Mar. 15	Independence
Mar. 17	War: 1775-77
Mar. 22	War: 1778-81
Mar. 24	Civilians in Wartime
Mar. 29, 31	SPRING VACATION
Apr. 5	"Cultivating the Sensations of Freedom": Musical Reflections of Revolution and War
Apr. 7	The Confederation
Apr. 12	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. 14	Creation of the Constitution
Apr. 19	<u>Preparation for the ratification debate</u>
Apr. 21	<u>Debate:</u> Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists
Apr. 26	Ratification in the States
Apr. 28	Launching the Experiment in Republicanism
May 3	The Importance of the 1790s
May 5	The Contagion of Liberty
May 10	The Problem of Slavery in an Age of Revolution
May 12	A Continuing Revolution
May 18	<u>FINAL EXAM</u>
	The exam is scheduled for 7:45-9:45 am. Place to be announced.

DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Each student should be enrolled in one of the following weekly discussion sections:

Tuesdays	11:00 am	2661 Humanities
"	1:20 pm	2121 Humanities
	2:25 pm	2121 Humanities
Thursdays	12:05 pm	2611 Humanities
"	1:20 pm	4017 Vilas
"	2:25 pm	2241 Humanities

Assigned readings must be completed before the discussion section in which the student is enrolled, so that he or she may participate actively and thoughtfully in the discussion.

Readings for:

- Feb. 1-3 Kenneth Silverman (ed.), The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
Richard B. Morris, "Meet Dr. Franklin," American Heritage 23 (1971):81-91.
- Feb. 8-10 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. 15-17 Donald R. Wright, African Americans in the Colonial Era: From African Origins
Through the American Revolution, chaps. 1-3
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. 22-24 Selections from John Locke's Second Treatise of Government
Bernard Bailyn, The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution, chap. 2.
- Mar. 1-3 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
The Declaratory Act (Mar. 18, 1766)
John Dickinson's Farmer's Letter (Dec. 7, 1767)
- Mar. 8-10 No discussion sections this week.

- Mar. 15-17 Thomas Paine, Common Sense
 "The Dye is Cast . . ." (letter from a member of the Continental Congress, May 20, 1776)
 The Declaration of Independence
 Exchange of correspondence between John Adams and Abigail Adams (Mar.-Apr. 1776)
- Mar. 22-24 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, 31 SPRING VACATION
- Apr. 5-7 Marcus Cunliffe, George Washington: Man and Monument
- Apr. 12-14 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. 19-21 No discussion sections this week. In preparation for the debate on April 21, 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. 26-28 Thomas Slaughter, The Whiskey Rebellion: Frontier Epilogue to the American Revolution
- May 3-5 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. 4
 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 Hoffinan, 3-48

May 10-12 Merrill Peterson, Adams and Jefferson: A Revolutionary Dialogue

GRADING: 20% - mid-term exam
20% - paper due Apr. 12
30% - participation in discussion sections (including written work)
30% - final exam

HONORS CREDIT: Students who are taking this course for honors credit should meet with Professor Lee no later than February 15, to decide upon a project that will satisfy the honors requirement.

OFFICE HOURS:

Professor Lee: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11-noon; also by appointment
4116 Humanities Building
Phone: 263-1661 or 263-1800

Ms. Wright: Tuesdays, 10:45-11:45 am; also by appointment
5265 Humanities Building
Phone: 263-1868

Mr. Grace: Wednesdays, 1-2 pm; Thursdays, 11-noon; also by appointment
4274 Humanities Building
Phone: 263-8547