

The University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Spring Semester 2005  
**THE ERA OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

History 344  
T, Th, 2:30-3:45 p.m.  
19 Ingraham Building

Professor J. B. Lee  
Office: 5201 Humanities  
Office Hrs.: 4:15-5:15 Tues.  
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 characterized as "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 course 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 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 required weekly discussion sections.

**REQUIRED READINGS:** Weekly reading assignments are listed on a separate handout.

The following books are available for purchase at the University Book Store on State Street. These titles are also on three-hour reserve at the Helen C. White Undergraduate College Library.

- Bonwick, Colin. The American Revolution  
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)  
Silverman, Kenneth (ed.). The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin  
Paine, Thomas. Common Sense  
Wilkins, Roger. Jefferson's Pillow: The Dilemma of Black Patriotism

Other assigned readings, including documents, are available as photocopies (at Bob's Copy Shop in Randall Tower, 1314 W. Johnson St.), or online at the Learn@UW website for the course.

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

Jan. 18            Introductory Session  
Jan. 20            Mystic Chords of Memory: The American Revolution in Historical Perspective,  
                         1775-1876

Jan. 25	Great Britain and Its Empire
Jan. 27	Colonial Landscapes
Feb. 1	Degrees of Freedom (1)
Feb. 3	Degrees of Freedom (2)
Feb. 8	Evangelicalism and Enlightenment
Feb. 10	The Theory and Practice of Government
Feb. 15	Warfare and the Empire
Feb. 17	Parliamentary Reforms, Colonial Responses
Feb. 22	Resistance
Feb. 24	Crisis of the Empire
Mar. 1	Independence
Mar. 3	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
Mar. 8	War: 1775-77
Mar. 9	War: 1778-81
Mar. 15	Musical Reflections of the Revolution
Mar. 17	A Confederation of Sovereign States
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
Mar. 29	Crises of the 1780s
Mar. 31	Creation of the Constitution
Apr. 5	Preparation for debate on the Constitution
Apr. 7	<b>DEBATE:</b> Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists
Apr. 12	Ratification and the Bill of Rights
Apr. 14	Establishing Federal Government
Apr. 19	Origins of American Foreign Policy
Apr. 21	Legitimizing Political Opposition
Apr. 26	The Contagion of Liberty
Apr. 28	The Problem of Slavery in an Age of Revolution
May 3	Origins of American Patriotism
May 5	A Continuing Revolution

May 12      **FINAL EXAM -- 10:05 am**  
 (Thursday)    Place to be announced.

**DISCUSSION SECTIONS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:** All undergraduates must be enrolled in one of the following discussion sections:

Wednesdays	9:55 am	2653 Humanities Bldg.
	12:05 pm	2231 Humanities Bldg.
	2:25 pm	B325 Van Vleck Hall
	3:30 pm	2125 Humanities Bldg.
Thursdays	9:55 am	2637 Humanities Bldg.
	11:00 am	2241 Humanities Bldg.
Fridays	9:55 am	2185 Grainger
	11:00 am	1651 Humanities Bldg.

**Note:** Each week, students are expected to read the assigned material *before* their discussion section meets, and to participate actively in class discussion.

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS:** Jerome K. Dotson and Hannah Nyala West

**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, students who expect to be absent from class work because of religious holidays must, within the first two weeks of class, notify the instructor (in this case the student's 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.