

The University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Summer Session, May 24-June 20  
**THE ERA OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

History 344  
Mon.-Thurs., 1:10-3:40 pm  
1651 Humanities Bldg.

Professor J. B. Lee  
Office: 5102 Humanities  
Office Hours: 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.

---

**REQUIRED READINGS**

**Note:** All assigned books are available at the University Bookstore on State Street and at other local vendors. The Course Packet, which contains photocopies of brief essays and contemporary documents, is available at Bob's Copy Shop, 616 University Avenue; phone 257-4536). Assigned readings are also on three-hour reserve at the Helen C. White Undergraduate College Library.

**Books**

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.). *Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography and Other Writings*  
Wilkins, Roger. *Jefferson's Pillow: The Dilemma of Black Patriotism*

**Online readings:** A scholarly article by Alfred Young, to be read before the first class meeting, is available at the History 344 webpage at Learn@UW.

---

**INFORMATION ON LEARN@UW:** Check the History 344 website in Learn@UW for any current postings of information, as well as the syllabus and assigned readings.

---

## CLASS SCHEDULE

- Note:** (1) Sources preceded by an asterisk (\*) are in the Course Packet of photocopies.  
(2) Sources preceded by a diamond (◆) should be accessed at the Learn@UW webpage for History 344.

### WEEK 1

- May 24     **Introductory Session**  
**Lecture:** Mystic Chords of Memory: The American Revolution in Historical Perspective, 1775-1876  
**Reading assignment:**  
◆ Alfred F. Young, "George Robert Twelves Hewes (1742-1840): A Boston Shoemaker and the Memory of the American Revolution," *William and Mary Quarterly* 38 (1981):561-623.
- May 25     **Lecture:** Great Britain and Its Empire  
**Lecture:** Colonial Landscapes  
**Reading assignment:**  
Kenneth Silverman, ed., *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*.  
\* Richard B. Morris, "Meet Dr. Franklin," *American Heritage* 23 (1971):81-91.
- May 26     **Lecture:** Degrees of Freedom  
**Reading assignment:**  
\* Letter from an Indentured Servant, 1756  
\* Washington's Attempt to Import Paletines (i.e., Germans), 1774  
Colin Bonwick, *The American Revolution* (2nd edition), the Introduction, chap. 1, and Tables 1-3.
- May 27     **Reading assignment:**  
Bonwick, *American Revolution*, chap. 2.  
Jean B. Lee, *The Price of Nationhood: The American Revolution in Charles County*, Introduction and all of Part I (i.e., pp. 3-84).  
**Lecture:** Evangelicalism and Enlightenment

### WEEK 2

- May 31     **Lecture:** The Theory and Practice of Government  
**Reading assignment:**  
\* Excerpt from *The Second Treatise of Government*, by John Locke.  
\* Bernard Bailyn, "Power and Liberty: A Theory of Politics," in *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, chap. 3.  
Bonwick, *American Revolution*, chap. 3.
- June 1     **Lecture:** Warfare and the Empire  
**Lecture:** Parliamentary Reforms, Colonial Responses  
**Reading assignment:**  
\* Resolutions of the Stamp Act Congress, October 1765  
\* The Declaratory Act, March 1766  
Lee, *Price of Nationhood*, chap. 3.

- June 2     **Lecture:** Resistance  
**Lecture:** Crisis of the Empire  
**Reading assignment:**  
\* *Peter Oliver's Origin & Progress of the American Revolution: A Tory View*, ed. Douglass Adair and John A. Schutz, pp. 46-59.  
\* Correspondence between Washington and Bryan Fairfax, July 1774  
\* Declaration of Colonial Rights and Grievances, by the First Continental Congress, October 1774  
Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (1776)  
Lee, *Price of Nationhood*, chap. 4
- June 3     **Lecture:** Independence  
**Lecture:** The War for Independence, 1775-77  
**Reading assignment:**  
Bonwick, *American Revolution*, chap. 4.  
\* Excerpt from the King's Speech Closing Parliament (May 1776)  
\* *The Virginia Gazette*, July 23, 1776 (scan the entire issue)  
\* "On American Affairs, July-Dec. 1776" (London).
- June 7     **Midterm Exam** -- The exam must be taken this day.  
**Post-exam Lecture:** "Cultivating the Sensations of Freedom": Music of the Revolution
- June 8     **Lecture:** The War for Independence, 1778-83  
**Lecture:** A Confederation of Sovereign States  
**Reading assignment:**  
Lee, *Price of Nationhood*, chaps. 5-6.  
\* The Articles of Confederation, 1777.  
Bonwick, *American Revolution*, chap. 5.
- June 9     **Lecture:** Crises of the 1780s  
**Lecture:** Creation of the Constitution  
**Planning for in-class debate on the Constitution**  
**Reading assignment:**  
Bonwick, *American Revolution*, chap. 6-7.
- June 10    **Read & contemplate before the debate:**  
Bonwick, *American Revolution*, chap. 8 and the U.S. Constitution.  
Madison, Hamilton, and Jay, *The Federalist Papers* (specific essays to be assigned)  
Ralph Ketcham, ed., *The Anti-Federalist Papers and the Constitutional Convention Debates* (specific sections to be assigned).
- Debate:** Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists (The setting: the final day of the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia. For one last time, the delegates debate the most important issues surrounding the document to be submitted to the states for ratification.)

- June 14    **Lecture:** Ratification and the Bill of Rights  
**Lecture:** Establishing Federal Government  
**Reading assignment:**  
Bonwick, *American Revolution*, chap. 9, the Virginia Declaration of Rights (1776), and the Bill of Rights (i.e., the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution).  
Lee, *Price of Nationhood, Part 3*.
- June 15    **Lecture:** Origins of American Foreign Policy  
**Lecture:** Legitimizing Political Opposition  
**Reading assignment:**  
\* Washington's Farewell Address, 1796  
\* The Alien and Sedition Acts, 1798  
\* The Virginia and Kentucky Resolves, 1798-99  
\* Jefferson's First Inaugural Address, 1801
- June 16    **Lecture:** The Contagion of Liberty and the Problem of Slavery in an Age of Revolution  
**Lecture:** A Continuing Revolution  
**Reading assignment:**  
\* Judith Sergeant Murray, "On the Equality of the Sexes" (1790)  
\* The Seneca Falls Declaration, 1848  
\* The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom (1786)  
Roger Wilkins, *Jefferson's Pillow: The Dilemma of Black Patriotism*.
- June 17    **FINAL EXAM (during class time)**

---

**GRADING:**    In-class assignments: 30%  
-                    Midterm exam: 30%  
                      Final exam: 40%

---

**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.