

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
First Semester, 1977

History 399
Representative Americans
Mr. Risjord

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The course will cover the period from the mid-eighteenth century to the early nineteenth century. Representative persons will be selected from a variety of fields, from politics to the fine arts. Sketches of varying length will be given of the following persons:

Benjamin Franklin
Samuel Adams
George Washington
Eli Whitney
John Jacob Astor
Isaac Backus
William Ellery Channing

James Wilkinson
Tecumseh
Noah Webster
Charles Willson Peale
Charles Bulfinch
Thomas Jefferson

HOUSEKEEPING

The course will meet three times a week -- two lectures and a discussion section. There will be weekly reading assignments for discussion, taken from the following books, which are available in the bookstores:

Charles Sydnor, American Revolutionaries in the Making
Robert Gross, The Minutemen and their World
Eric Foner, Tom Paine and Revolutionary America
Gore Vidal, Bury My Heart at the Gates
Jackson T. Main, The Social Structure of Revolutionary America

EXAMS

There will be two mid-term exams, each about 50 minutes in length, and a two-hour final. In computing final grades, oral performance in the discussion sections will count as much as one of the mid-term exams.

EXTRA-CREDIT PAPER

A term paper is not required in this course. However, those students who would like to earn some extra grade credit may write a short essay connected with one of the reading assignments (and be prepared to give an oral report on your findings in the discussion section). The details on this can be arranged with me or with the teaching assistant.

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Semester I Year 1977-78

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
399	Representative Americans	Fisjord

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A biographical approach to American History, focusing in the first semester on the Revolutionary generation. It is an examination of American society and politics through the lives of various persons, some well-known, some not.

LECTURES Twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 9:55
Plus a weekly discussion section.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Two hourly exams in the course of the semester plus a two-hour final.

A half dozen paperbacks will be assigned for discussion in sections.

No papers required.

GRADING SYSTEM

Approximately a third of the grade will depend on reading and oral performance in discussion sections. Exams will determine the remainder.

REQUIRED READINGS

Six paperbacks available in the book store.

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