



History 326: The American Revolutionary Era

Spring 2012
 11:00-12:15 MW
 Prof. Paula A. Treckel

This course explores the development of the American nation from the French and Indian War through the ratification of the Constitution of the United States. Students will explore the social, economic, political, religious and military history of this important era. Special attention will be paid to the Revolutionary War itself, and the impact of that war on the daily lives of men and women. The course is topical in organization and assumes a fundamental understanding of the chronology of American history.

Students in this class will:

- Understand key themes underlying the causes and consequences of the American Revolution.
- Identify and be able to articulate historians' interpretations of major events, issues, and ideas of the Revolutionary era.
- Conduct primary and secondary research about some aspect of the American Revolution that interests them.
- Lead their classmates in discussion about important works in the field of Revolutionary history.
- Develop their own interpretations about major events, issues and ideas of the Revolutionary era.
- Write a research paper on their chosen subject using the *Chicago Manual of Style* as their citation guide.

Required Readings:

Anderson, Fred. *The War that Made America*.
 Breen, T.H. *The Marketplace of Revolution*.
 Norton, Mary Beth. *Liberty's Daughters*.
 Gross, Robert. *The Minutemen and their World*.
 Ferling, John. *Setting the World Ablaze*.
 Young, Alfred. *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party*.

Films:

These films will be shown in Arter 201 at 6:30pm on the evenings designated in the syllabus.

"The Last of the Mohicans" (1992)

"1776" (1972)

"Mary Silliman's War" (1984)

Discussion Topics and Reading Assignments:

1/18	America in 1750	Begin Anderson.
1/23	England and Empire	
1/24	Film: "The Last of the Mohicans" 6:30pm Arter 201	
1/25	French, Indians, Colonists & Englishmen	
1/30	The War that Made America	Finish Anderson.
2/1	Colonial Consumers	Begin Breen.
2/6	Mercantilism and Capitalism	
2/8	Tea	
2/13	Revolution and Consumption	
2/15	The making of a Revolution	Finish Breen.
2/20	A New England Town (Take-home Exam #1 due)	Begin Gross.
2/22	Conserving Their World	
2/27	Families at War	
2/29	Lexington and Concord	Finish Gross
3/5	Making a Revolution	
3/6	Film: "1776" 6:30pm Arter 201	
3/7	Constructing an American Identity	Begin Norton
3/14	The Politics of Equality	
3/19	Spring Break	
3/21	Spring Break	
3/26	"Liberty's Daughters"	
3/27	Film: Mary Silliman's War 6:30pm Arter 201	
3/28	Revolution in Men's and Women's Lives	Finish Norton.
4/2	The Continental Army (Take-home Exam #2 due)	Begin Ferling.
4/4	The Militia	
4/9	General Washington	
4/11	Founding Fathers (Research Paper due in class.)	Finish Ferling.
4/16	Making the Revolution Real	Begin Young.
4/18	The Shoemaker and the Tea Party	
4/23	The Meaning of the American Revolution	
4/25	History, Memory & Myth	Finish Young.
4/30	No class.	
5/8	Take-home Final Exam is due by noon, Arter 202.	

Course Requirements:

You are required to attend all classes, read all assigned works by the dates indicated, participate in and facilitate class discussions, take all exams, and write a research paper for this course.

Attendance will be taken. Students with more than **two** unexcused absences in the course will be penalized when their final grade in the course is determined.

You are required to take **two Take-home exams** and a **Take-home Final Exam**. Each exam, including the final exam, is worth 1/5 of your final course grade. **The Take-home Final Exam is due by noon on 5/8. It must be turned in at the Department of History Office, Arter 202.**

You are required to write a research paper (minimum **15** pages, including endnotes and bibliography) on a topic related the American Revolutionary Era. The guidelines for this paper will be discussed in class. The

paper is due in class on 4/11. No late papers will be accepted. The research paper is worth 1/5 of your final course grade.

All students are expected to participate in class discussions. You are also required to facilitate class discussion on one of the assigned monographs during the semester. Class participation and discussion facilitation are worth 1/5 of your final course grade.

No incompletes will be awarded in this course without the permission of the Dean.

Office Hours:

203 Arter Hall

M 1:00-3:00

T 9:30-12:00

W 8:00-11:00; 1:30-3:00

& by appointment

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