

HIS 336
The Age of Democratic Revolutions

The Americans have made a discovery, or think they have made one, that we mean to oppress them; we have made a discovery, or think we have made one, that they intend to rise in rebellion. We know not how to advance; they know not how to retreat.
Edmund Burke to the House of Commons, 1769

Question: What have got in your hand?

Answer: A green bough.

Question: Where did it first grow?

Answer: In America.

Question: Where did it bud?

Answer: In France.

Question: Where are you going to plant it?

Answer: In the Crown of Great Britain.

United Irish Catechism, 1798

Course Description

This course examines the American War for Independence in a broad Atlantic context and as a long phenomenon of revolutions that sought to redefine and reestablish social orders from 1748-1800. Students will study the colonial crisis within the British Empire, the rebellion in America, the Articles of Confederation and Constitutional Convention, and the revolutionary movements of France, Haiti, and the 1798 Irish Rebellion. This course is primary source (i.e. historical documents) intensive. Students will be graded on their ability to use primary sources to speak to the class, interact with classmates, and write thoughtful and cohesive overviews of the period.

Course Objectives

Students will:

- 1) Learn and discuss the varieties of social and ideological experiences in the revolutionary period through lectures, book reports and writing assignments.
- 2) Increase analytical and writing skills by engaging primary sources with multiple points of view in writing assignments.
- 3) Increase public speaking skills by presenting book overviews to the entire class and fielding questions from classmates.
- 4) Grow professionally by meeting high expectations on attendance, punctuality and deadlines.

Course Requirements: Policies

Attendance:

- Attendance is mandatory.
- Students may miss 1 class with no penalty.
- Subsequent absences must be cleared through the instructor in advance. In the case of **verifiable** family emergencies, contact should be made as soon afterwards as possible.
- Unexcused absences beyond the first deduct 1 letter grade per day.

Reading:

- Reading all assigned texts is required.

Assignments:

- All assignments must be turned in by the date/time noted on the syllabus or announced in class.
- Late assignments (up to 2 days) will be docked 1 letter grade (From A to B, from B to C, etc.).
- Assignments more than 3 days overdue will be given a 50.
- Assignments more than 7 days overdue will be given a 0.

Presentations:

- Students must give presentations on the assigned days.
- If you are unable to attend on your day, you must inform the instructor immediately.

Course Requirements: Details

Grade:

- 25% = Book Report and Class Presentation
- 25% = Class Participation in Question and Answer Periods
- 25% = Paper #1
- 25% = Paper #2

Book Report and Class Presentation:

- Due: on your assigned day
- If you are unable to attend on your day, you must inform the instructor immediately.
- You will be assigned one book to read and report to the class
- Presentation: Give a 10 minute presentation with the following requirements:
 - PowerPoint
 - Book details (author, when was it published)
 - Subject (this book is about what?)
 - Argument (what does the author argue is or is not true about the topic?)
 - Organization (how is the argument organized, chapters, sections, etc.)
 - Persuasiveness (is the argument compelling?)
 - Approach (what approach to history does the author take, top-down, bottom-up, economic, cultural, etc.?)
- Paper: 2 Page, Times New Roman font, double spaced book review including all the points above
- Style: format in either Chicago, MLA or APA styles appropriate to your major- but be consistent throughout the paper
- Due the day of your presentation- Hard copy only

Class Participation in Question and Answer Periods:

- After each book presentation, the class will discuss the issues involved and highlighted by that book
- Participation in these discussion is mandatory and is graded on quality, not quantity
- This grade is the instructors subjective view of your contribution to class discussion, questions and answers to classmates, etc.
- What is the instructor looking for? Substance.
 - C = "I think that..."
 - B = "Its kind of like when John Adams did this..."
 - A = "The Federalists said in Federalist #10 that ..."

Paper #1:

- Due: February 22, in class, hard copy only (no emails)
- Length: 5 pages, 2X spaced, 12 font Times New Roman. 1 inch margins
- Style: format in either Chicago, MLA or APA styles according to your major- but be consistent throughout the paper
- Sources: *The American Republic: Primary Sources*, edited by Bruce Frohnen
- Topic: Using *The American Republic* answer **just one** of the following questions:
 - Topic 1: How were American different colonial governments set up, and how did they attempt to transform governments during and after the Revolution?
 - Topic 2: How were liberty of conscience, religious establishment and civic virtue connected and in tension in the Revolutionary and Constitutional periods?
 - Topic 3: What were the tensions between liberty and order being debated between 1768-1800?

Paper #2:

- Due: Tuesday, May 3rd by 3pm. HARD COPY ONLY- MHRA 2112
- Length: 10 pages, 2X spaced, 12 font Times New Roman, 1 inch margins
- Style: format in either Chicago, MLA or APA styles according to your major- but be consistent throughout the paper
- Sources: **(use all 3)**
 - *Rights of Man*, by Thomas Paine
 - *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, by Edmund Burke
 - *Vindication on the Rights of Man and Vindication of the Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft
- Topic: Compare these three visions of the legacy and meaning of Revolutions in the Atlantic World. What did these legacies mean for people in terms of social equality and inequality (race, class and gender) and social order (liberty vs. order).

Course Schedule

Tuesday, Jan. 11	Syllabus	
Thursday, Jan. 13	Lecture: Colonial Societies	<i>Read Frohnen pp 3-38</i>

Tuesday, Jan. 18		<p>Books Due:</p> <p>Fea, John. <i>The Way of Improvement Leads Home.</i></p> <p>Hunter, Phyllis. <i>Purchasing Identity in the Atlantic World: Massachusetts merchants, 1670-1780.</i></p> <p>Ryan, William. <i>The World of Thomas Jeremiah: Charles Town on the Eve of the American Revolution.</i></p> <p>Butler, Jon. <i>Becoming America: The Revolution before 1776.</i></p>
Thursday, Jan. 20	Lecture: The Limits of Empire, 1748-1763	<i>Read Frohnen pp 92-109</i>

Tuesday, Jan. 25		<p>Books Due:</p> <p>Bailyn, Bernard. <i>The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution.</i></p> <p>Breen, Timothy. <i>Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped American Independence.</i></p> <p>Maier, Pauline. <i>From Resistance to Revolution: Colonial Radicals and the Development of American Opposition to Britain, 1765-1776.</i></p>
Thursday, Jan. 27	Lecture: Sugar and Stamps, 1763-1772	<i>Read Frohnen pp 110-139</i>

Tuesday, Feb. 1		<p>Young, Alfred. <i>The Shoemaker and the Tea Party: Memory and the American Revolution.</i></p> <p>Greene, Jack. <i>Understanding the American Revolution: Issues and Actors.</i></p> <p>Greene, Jack. <i>The American Revolution: Its Character and Limits.</i></p>
Thursday, Feb. 3	Lecture: A Temper Tantrum over Tea?, 1773-1775	Read Frohnen pp 140-195

Tuesday, Feb. 8		<p>Books Due:</p> <p>Dowd, Gregory. <i>A Spirited Resistance: the North American Indian Struggle for United, 1745-1815.</i></p> <p>O'Brien, Greg. <i>Choctaws in a Revolutionary Age, 1750-1830.</i></p> <p>Holton, Woody. <i>Forced Founders: Indians, debtors, slaves and the making of the American Revolution.</i></p> <p>White, Richard. <i>The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815.</i></p>
Thursday, Feb. 10	Native Americans in a Revolutionary Age	Read <i>Blackboard</i> : James Axtell, "Colonial America Without the Indians: Counterfactual Reflections," <i>Journal of American History</i> 73 (1987) 981-86

Tuesday, Feb. 15		<p>Books Due:</p> <p>Raphael, Ray. <i>A People's History of the American Revolution: How Common People Shaped the War for Independence.</i></p> <p>Nash, Gary. <i>The Unknown American Revolution: The Unruly Birth of Democracy and the Struggle to Create America.</i></p> <p>Shy, John. <i>A People Numerous and Armed: Reflections on the Military Struggle for American Independence.</i></p> <p>Langguth, A.J. <i>Patriots: The Men Who Started the American Revolution.</i></p>
Thursday, Feb. 17	Lecture: What was the war about?	<i>Start Reading: Paine, Burke and Wollstonecraft</i>

<p>Tuesday, Feb. 22</p> <p>(Washington's Birthday)</p>	PAPER #1 DUE TODAY	<p>Books Due:</p> <p>Fenn, Elizabeth. <i>Pox Americana: the Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-1782.</i></p> <p>Buchanan, <i>The Road to Guilford Courthouse.</i></p> <p>Klein, Rachel. <i>Unification of a Slave State: The Rise of the Planter Class in the South Carolina Backcountry, 1760-1808.</i></p>
Thursday, Feb. 24	Lecture: War and Society, 1775-1783	<i>Reading: Paine, Burke and Wollstonecraft</i>

Tuesday, Mar. 1		<p>Books Due:</p> <p>Calhoun, Robert M. <i>Tory Insurgents: The Loyalist Perceptions and Other Essays.</i></p> <p>Kerber, Linda. <i>Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America.</i></p> <p>Norton, Mary Beth. <i>Liberty's Daughters: The Revolutionary Experience of American Women, 1750-1800.</i></p> <p>Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. <i>A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812.</i></p>
Thursday, Mar. 3	Loyalists in Revolutionary America	<i>Reading Blackboard: "The Loyalist Perception" by Robert. M. Calhoun</i>

Tuesday, Mar. 8	SPRING BREAK	
Thursday, Mar. 10	SPRING BREAK	

Tuesday, Mar. 15		<p>Books Due:</p> <p>Holton, Woody. <i>Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution.</i></p> <p>Egerton, Douglas. <i>Gabriel's Rebellion: The Virginia Slave Conspiracies of 1800 and 1802.</i></p> <p>Appleby, Joyce. <i>Inheriting the Revolution: The First Generation of Americans.</i></p> <p>Smith, Richard Norton. <i>Patriarch: George Washington and the New American Nation.</i></p>
Thursday, Mar. 17	Lecture: Nation or Nations? What to do	<i>Read Frohnen pp 196-299</i>

	with victory, 1783-1787	
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Tuesday, Mar. 22		<p>Books Due:</p> <p>Frey, Sylvia. <i>Water from the Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age.</i></p> <p>Schama, Simon. <i>Rough Crossings: Britian, the slaves and the American Revolution.</i></p> <p>Weir, Robert M. <i>The Last of American Freemen: Studies in the Political Culture of the Colonial and Revolutionary South.</i></p>
Thursday, Mar. 24	Lecture: Slavery and Freedom	<i>Reading: Paine, Burke and Wollstonecraft</i>

Tuesday, Mar. 29		<p>Books Due</p> <p>Wood, Gordon. <i>The Radicalism of the American Revolution.</i></p> <p>Banning, Lance. <i>The Sacred Fire of Liberty: James Madison and the Founding of the Federal Republic.</i></p> <p>Rakove, Jack. <i>The Beginnings of National Politics: an interpretive history of the Continental Congress</i></p>
Thursday, Mar. 31	Lecture: The Moderate Constitution	<i>Read Frohnen pp 300-381</i>

Tuesday, Apr. 5		<p>Books Due:</p> <p>James, CLR. <i>The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution.</i></p> <p>Geggus, David. <i>The Impact of the Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World.</i></p> <p>Pakenham, Thomas. <i>The Year of Liberty: History of the Great Irish Rebellion of 1798</i></p> <p>Langley, Lester. <i>The Americas in the Age of Revolution, 1750-1850.</i></p>
Thursday, Apr. 7	Lecture: Atlantic Revolutions	Reading: Paine, Burke and Wollstonecraft

Tuesday, Apr. 12		<p>Books Due:</p> <p>Fritz, Christian. <i>American Sovereigns: The People and America's Constitutional Tradition before the Civil War.</i></p> <p>Cornell, Saul. <i>The Other Founders: Anti-Federalism and the Dissenting Tradition in America, 1788-1828.</i></p> <p>Beemen, Richard. <i>Plain Honest Men: The Making of the American Constitution.</i></p> <p>McCullough, David. <i>John Adams.</i></p>
Thursday, Apr. 14	Lecture: Aliens, Seditions, Rebellions and the Contested Constitution	Read Frohnen pp 382-490

Tuesday, Apr. 19		<p>Books Due:</p> <p>Fea, John. <i>Was America Founded as a Christian Nation? A Historical Introduction.</i></p> <p>Dreisbach, Daniel. <i>Thomas Jefferson and the Wall of Separation Between Church and State.</i></p> <p>Kidd, Thomas. <i>God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution.</i></p> <p>Lambert, Frank. <i>The Founding Fathers and the Place of Religion in America.</i></p>
Thursday, Apr. 21	Lecture: Legacies of the Founding Era	<p><i>Reading Frohnen pp 42-91</i></p> <p><i>Reading: Paine, Burke and Wollstonecraft</i></p>

Tuesday, Apr. 26	READING WEEK	
Thursday, Apr. 28	READING WEEK	

Tuesday, May 3	FINAL PAPER DUE by 3pm	Final Exam, 12pm-3pm