The purpose of this course is to introduce graduate students to some of the most significant scholarly works and topics on the American Revolution. Students will critically analyze historical monographs and scholarly articles through class discussion and written reviews, and each student will write either a research paper based on primary and secondary sources or a historiographical paper that surveys the scholarly literature on a particular topic related to the American Revolution. I assume that you have a working knowledge of the key events arising from the American Revolution, but if you need a refresher the following books provide a solid narrative history of the entire era but they are not required for the course:


**Required books:**

**Assignments:**
Besides reading a book + some articles per week you will turn in a written review for three of the weeks with assigned readings. In addition, one week you will lead discussion of the weekly readings in class. Class discussion is central to this course and will form a significant part of your grade. Finally, you will write a ~20 page research OR historiographical paper due at the end of the semester. All of the article readings can be found via either the JSTOR or Project MUSE database through the library website. The required books have been ordered for the UNCG Bookstore but I am fine with you acquiring the cheapest copy wherever you can or borrowing them from the library. Your final research or historiographical paper should follow
the Chicago Manual of Style, Humanities formatting of citations and the bibliography. Links to abbreviated versions of the Chicago Manual are here:
http://uncg.libguides.com/content.php?pid=100907&sid=1040906
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Doing the book reviews:
You will prepare professional-quality book reviews of each of your assigned weekly readings, including any articles also assigned for that week’s readings. Professional quality means that your review could be published in an academic history journal, and, thus, the review should expose the author’s thesis and main supporting points, discuss and evaluate the evidence presented by the author to prove his/her thesis, suggest how this book fits into the historiography on that subject, and tell who the author is. Do NOT tell me that the book is “interesting” for that means absolutely nothing. Do tell me why the book is important, what its flaws (if any) are, and why we must all be familiar with its thesis in order to better understand the American Revolution. Browse through the book reviews in the journals Reviews in American History, Journal of the Early Republic, William and Mary Quarterly (all are in the library or available online through the JSTOR database) for examples of what I am asking for. You may consult published reviews of the books you are working on, but do not copy and paste from them, as that is cheating, and I want to read your words not someone else’s. Each review should be double spaced and about 3 pages in length, no more than 4 pages and no less than 2.

Grading:
Written Reviews (3): 10% each 30%
Discussion Leadership 10%
Discussion Participation 10%
Topic and Bibliography for Paper .05% each 10%
Final Paper 40%

100%

Schedule:
Week 1 Introduction
1/16

Week 2 Ways that Historians have Interpreted the Revolution
1/23
Reading: Book: Young and Nobles, Whose American Revolution Was It? pp. 1-144
Article: T. H. Breen, “Ideology and Nationalism on the Eve of the American
Revolution: Revisions Once More in Need of Revising,” The Journal of American

Week 3 A Consumer Revolution?
1/30
Reading: Book: Breen, The Marketplace of Revolution (all)

Week 4 Beginnings and Causes in Virginia
2/6
Reading: Book: Holton, Forced Founders (all)

Week 5: 2/13

No class! I am attending a conference at Florida State University.

Week 6: 2/20

**TOPIC FOR RESEARCH OR HISTORIOGRAPHICAL PAPER DUE**

**Society and Fighting in New England**
Reading: Book: Gross, *The Minutemen and Their World* (all)

Week 7: 2/27

**Fighting in Virginia**
Reading: Book: McDonnell, *The Politics of War* (all)

Week 8: 3/6

**Race, Class, and Gender in Revolutionary America**
Reading: Book: Young and Nobles, *Whose American Revolution Was It?* pp. 144-end

Week 9: 3/13

No class - SPRING BREAK!

Week 9: 3/20

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCES FOR PAPER DUE**

**American Identity and the American Revolution, Part 1**
Reading: Book: Smith-Rosenberg, *This Violent Empire*, pp. Preface-249

Week 10: 3/27

**American Identity and the American Revolution, Part 2**
Reading: Book: Smith-Rosenberg, *This Violent Empire*, pp. 250-end
**Articles:**

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