

The University of Wisconsin-Madison
Spring Semester 2009
THE ERA OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

History 344
T, Th, 9:30-10:45 am
3650 Humanities Building

Professor J. B. Lee
Office: 5102 Humanities
Office Hrs.: 11 am-noon Tuesdays &
11:30 – noon, Thursdays
Also 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.

COURSE CREDITS: For all undergraduate students, History 344 is a 4-credit course. The fourth credit is for the required weekly discussion sections.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Note: All assigned books and the course packet are also on three-hour reserve at the Helen C. White Undergraduate College Library.

Books (available locally at University Bookstore on State Street and at other local vendors):

Bailyn, Bernard. To Begin the World Anew: The Genius and Ambiguities of the American Founders

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

Course packet (a packet containing brief essays and contemporary documents is available at Bob's Copy Shop, 616 University Avenue; phone 257-4536).

CURRENT INFORMATION ON LEARN@UW: Check the History 344 website in Learn@UW for any current postings of information.

CLASS MEETINGS:

Jan. 20 Introductory Session

Jan. 22 Mystic Chords of Memory:

 The American Revolution in Historical Perspective, 1775-1876

- Jan. 27 Great Britain and Its Empire
 Jan. 29 Colonial Landscapes
 Feb. 3 Degrees of Freedom (1)
 Feb. 5 Degrees of Freedom (2)
 Feb. 10 Evangelicalism and Enlightenment
 Feb. 12 The Theory and Practice of Government
 Feb. 17 Warfare and the Empire
 Feb. 19 Parliamentary Reforms, Colonial Responses
 Feb. 24 Resistance
 Feb. 26 Crisis of the Empire
 Mar. 3 Independence
 Mar. 5 The War for Independence, 1775-77
 Mar. 10 The War for Independence, 1778-81

Mar. 12 MIDTERM EXAM

Note: The exam must be taken this day.

- Mar. 24 “Cultivating the Sensations of Freedom”: Music of the Revolution
 Mar. 26 A Confederation of Sovereign States
 Mar. 31 Crises of the 1780s
 Apr. 2 Creation of the Constitution
 Apr. 7 **PREPARATION FOR DEBATE** on the Constitution
 Apr. 9 **DEBATE:** Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists
 Apr. 14 Ratification and the Bill of Rights
 Apr. 16 Establishing Federal Government
 Apr. 21 Origins of American Foreign Policy
 Apr. 23 Legitimizing Political Opposition
 Apr. 28 The Contagion of Liberty
 Apr. 30 The Problem of Slavery in an Age of Revolution
 May 5 A Continuing Revolution
 May 7 Wrap-up Session

May 13 FINAL EXAM (5:05 - 7:05 pm) Place to be announced.

Note: The final exam must be taken at the regularly scheduled time.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

- Ronald Binzley: Office Hours: 11:00-noon, Tuesdays & 11:30-12:30, Thursdays
 5265 Humanities Building (phone: 263-1868)
John Coakley: Office Hours: 1:00-3:00 pm, Thursdays
 5268 Humanities Building (phone: 263-1868)

DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Every undergraduate should be enrolled in one of the discussion sections listed at the top of page 3. Read the assigned material *before* your section, so that you may participate fully and actively in the class. During the semester, the teaching assistants will assign written work designed to help you enhance your analytic, interpretive, and writing skills.

Tuesdays 1:20 pm 2221 Humanities Bldg.

	2: 25 pm	2241 Humanities Bldg.
Wednesdays	9:55 am	2637 Humanities Bldg.
	1: 20 pm	2241 Humanities Bldg.
	2:25 pm	B135 Van Vleck
Thursdays	1:20 pm	2211 Humanities Bldg.
	2:25 pm	2231 Humanities Bldg.
	3:30 pm	2241 Humanities Bldg.

GRADING: 40% - Participation in discussion sections (including assigned written work)
 25% - Midterm exam
 35% - Final exam

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.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: According to University policy, a student who expects to be absent from class because of religious holidays must, within the first two weeks of class, notify the instructor (in this case the assigned TA) of the specific date(s) on which s/he will be absent. Students bear the responsibility for arranging make-up assignments. If necessary, reasonable limits on the total number of days claimed by any one student will be set.

WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS
History 344 – Spring Semester 2009

Note: Sources preceded by an asterisk (*) are in the Course Packet of photocopies.

WEEK OF JAN. 26:

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. ([See instructions below for online access.](#))

Colin Bonwick, *The American Revolution* (2nd edition), introduction & chap 1.

Jean B. Lee, *The Price of Nationhood: The American Revolution in Charles County*, pp. 3-42.

Directions for online access to Alfred F. Young's article:

Login to My UW: > Libraries

Library Home Page: > Search Shortcuts > Top 10 Databases > JSTOR

In JSTOR: > Browse Journals > History > William and Mary Quarterly
> Vol. 38, no. 4 (Oct. 1981) > George Robert Twelves Hewes . . .

WEEK OF FEB. 2:

Bonwick, *American Revolution*, chap. 2 and pp. x, 282-83.

Lee, *Price of Nationhood*, chap. 2.

Documents:

*Letter from an Indentured Servant, 1756

*Washington's Attempt to Import Paletines (i.e., Germans), 1774

Online: Glimpses of Slavery at Monticello

Google: Monticello--The Home of Thomas Jefferson

Link to: House, Garden, & the Plantation > The Plantation > More

At the Plantation link: explore the sections entitled Land, Work, and Lives (in that order). Be sure to follow further links within each of these sections.

WEEK OF FEB. 9:

Lee, *Price of Nationhood*, chap. 3.

*Bernard Bailyn, "Power and Liberty: A Theory of Politics," in *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, chap. 3.

Document: *Excerpt from *The Second Treatise of Government*, by John Locke

WEEK OF FEB. 16:

Bonwick, *American Revolution*, p. xiii and chap. 3.

Documents (please read in chronological order):

*Resolutions of the Stamp Act Congress, October 1765

*The Declaratory Act, March 1766

WEEK OF FEB. 23:

Lee, *Price of Nationhood*, chap. 4.

*Alfred F. Young, "The Women of Boston: 'Persons of Consequence' in the Making of the American Revolution."

Documents (please read in chronological order):

**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 (in 2 parts)

*The Fairfax County Resolves, July 18, 1774

*Declaration of Colonial Rights and Grievances, by the First Continental Congress,

October 1774

Week of Mar. 2:

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (Jan.1776).

Documents (please read in chronological order):

*"The Dye Is Cast [May 1776]," *Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Aquisitions* 14 (1957): 181-85.

*Excerpt from the King's Speech Closing Parliament (May 1776)

The Virginia Declaration of Rights, June 1776 [in Bonwick, pp. 288-90]

**The Virginia Gazette*, July 23, 1776 (the entire issue)

*"On American Affairs, July-Dec. 1776" (London).

WEEK OF MAR. 9:

Bonwick, *American Revolution*, chap. 4.

WEEK OF MAR. 23:

Lee, *Price of Nationhood*, chaps. 5-6.

Bonwick, *American Revolution*, chap. 5.

Document: *The Articles of Confederation, 1777

WEEK OF MAR. 30:

Bonwick, *American Revolution*, chaps. 6-8.

Document: The U.S. Constitution [in Bonwick, pp. 290-302]

WEEK OF APR. 6:

James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay, *The Federalist Papers*

Ralph Ketcham, ed., *The Anti-Federalist Papers and the Constitutional Convention Debates*

WEEK OF APR. 13:

Bonwick, *American Revolution*, pp. 250-69.

Lee, *Price of Nationhood*, Part 3.

Document: The Bill of Rights [in Bonwick, pp. 301-302]

WEEK OF APR. 20:

Bonwick, *American Revolution*, pp. xi-xii, 269-81.

Silverman, ed., *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*

*Richard B. Morris, "Meet Dr. Franklin," *American Heritage* 23 (1971): 81-91.

WEEK OF APR. 27:

William H. Freehling, "The Founding Fathers and Slavery," *American Historical Review* 77 (1972): 81-93. (See instructions below for online access.)

Roger Wilkins, *Jefferson's Pillow: The Dilemma of Black Patriotism*.

Documents:

*Washington's Farewell Address, 1796

*The Alien and Sedition Acts, 1798

*The Virginia and Kentucky Resolves, 1798-99

*Jefferson's First Inaugural Address, 1801

Directions for online access to Freehling's article:

Login to My UW: > Libraries

Library Home Page: > Search Shortcuts > Top 10 Databases > JSTOR
In JSTOR: > Browse Journals > History > *American Historical Review*

WEEK OF MAY 4:

Bernard Bailyn, *To Begin the World Anew: The Genius and Ambiguities of the American Founders*

Documents:

- *The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, 1786
- *Judith Sergeant Murray, "On the Equality of the Sexes," 1790
- *Thomas Jefferson's last letters, May & June 1826
- *The Seneca Falls Declaration, 1848