

History 344
Spring, 1986
TuTh 9:30-10:45, 1121 Humanities
Sections: Th 1:20-2:10
 Th 2:25-3:15

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Office hours: Tu 4-5:10,
 Th 3:30-5

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

As the Republic waltzes through the 210th year since the Declaration of Independence and swings towards the Bicentennial of the Constitution, you will surely wish to purchase the following required readings:

Charles Andrews, THE COLONIAL BACKGROUND OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Eric Foner, TOM PAINE AND REVOLUTIONARY AMERICA
Jack P. Greene, ed., FROM COLONIES TO NATION, 1763-1789
Robert Gross, THE MINUTEMEN AND THEIR WORLD
Leonard Levy, ed., ESSAYS ON THE MAKING OF THE CONSTITUTION
Robert Middlekauff, THE GLORIOUS CAUSE
Hiller Zobel, THE BOSTON MASSACRE

All of these readings have been placed on three-hour reserve in the library of the State Historical Society.

Written Assignments

You are required to write two 3-page papers, a 5 to 7-page paper, and a 10-page paper; there are no examinations. The due dates are listed in the body of the syllabus; note that you have a choice of due dates for the 3-page papers. All papers must be received by 4:00 PM on the Friday they are due; the "drop site" will be announced in class. Please note the policy regarding late papers at the end of the syllabus. For topics, see below.

Grading

3-page papers: 10% each
5 to 7-page paper: 20%
10-page paper: 40%
Class discussion: 20%

The grade for class discussion will depend on both attendance and the quality of participation.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program and Assignments</u>
Jan. 21	His Majesty's Empire Surveyed
23	Seats of Power: the British Government Discussion: Greene, <u>Colonies</u> , documents i, 3A
28	The Rising Colonies
30	Ties that (Loosely) Bind: the Imperial Relationship to 1763 Discussion: Andrews, <u>Colonial Background</u>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program and Assignments</u>
Feb. 4	Ideologies of Resistance
6	The Genesis of Imperial Reorganization Discussion: Greene, <u>Colonies</u> , 13A, 15A, 15D-F, 16B, 22A, 24A, 23A. PAPER DUE Feb. 7 (First 3-page paper, option 1)
11	The Colonies Stamped
13	Townshend's Folly Discussion: Zobel, <u>Boston Massacre</u>
18	A Watchful Respite
20	The Final Crisis Brews Discussion: Greene, <u>Colonies</u> , 5, 6C, 7E, 8, 13B, 14C, 18. PAPER DUE Feb. 21 (First 3-page paper, option 2)
25	The Colonies Mobilize
27	The Revolutionary Coalition Discussion: Foner, <u>Tom Paine</u> , 1-106; Gross, <u>Minutemen</u> , 3-132
Mar. 4	Deliberating Independence
6	Slide Presentation - Cartoons of Crisis Discussion: Greene, <u>Colonies</u> , 24B-C, 25B, 32
11	Howe Now Brown Cow: the War for Independence, 1776-77
13	The World Turned Upside Down: the War for Independence, 1778-81 Discussion: Mapping the Revolution - Michael Edwards, guest lecturer PAPER DUE March 14 (5 to 7-page paper)
18	Fighting a Revolutionary War
20	Weapons and Tactics - James Watson, guest lecturer Discussion: Middlekauff, <u>Glorious Cause</u> , 274-581
25	VACATION -
27	WEAR A WHIG TO FORT LAUDERDALE
Apr. 1	Poor Congress
3	Slide Presentation - An Empire Dissolving, in Cartoons

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program and Assignments</u>
Apr. 3	Discussion: Foner, <u>Tom Paine</u> , 107-278. PAPER DUE April 4 (Second 3-page paper, option 1)
8	Republicanism
10	Constituting the States Discussion: Greene, <u>Colonies</u> , 30B, 33-37, 47
15	American Society: (R)evolutionary Changes
17	American Society: Revolution for Whom? Discussion: Gross, <u>Minutemen</u> , 133-91; Greene, <u>Colonies</u> , 38-41. PAPER DUE April 18 (Second 3-page paper, option 2)
22	The Confederation at Work
24	A Nation at Risk? Discussion: Greene, <u>Colonies</u> , 56-60
29	The Constitutional Convention
May 1	The Second American Constitution Discussion: Levy, <u>Essays</u>
6	Ratifying the Constitution - John Kaminski, guest lecturer
8	The American Revolution Considered Discussion: Greene, <u>Colonies</u> , 62. PAPER DUE May 9 (10-page paper)

Paper Topics

Write on the topics listed below. You may choose an alternate topic after consulting with me; however, alternate topics for the 10-page paper must deal in some way with the Constitution of 1787.

First 3-page paper:

Option 1 (DUE Feb. 7)

According to the colonists' rhetoric, why did Americans resist the British imperial program?

Option 2 (DUE Feb. 21)

How did the British and Americans differ in their understanding of the imperial constitution?

5-page paper (DUE March 14) :

Why did war break out when it did (and not earlier or later)? Put another way, why had a "revolutionary situation" developed by 1775?

Second 3-page paper:

Option 1 (DUE April 4)

What were the revolutionary crowds trying to accomplish?

Option 2 (DUE April 18)

What was the single most "revolutionary" change in American society brought about by the events of the 1760s-1780s?

10-page paper (DUE May 9):

From 1763 to 1789, Americans lived under three central governments. Discuss how the allocation of power to the constituent parts of government developed in considering the imperial constitution, the Articles of Confederation, and the Federal Constitution of 1787.

Rewrite Policy

You may rewrite any paper after consulting with me about such details as the new due date and the kinds of changes to be made. Please note that simply rewriting a paper will not in itself guarantee a higher grade; the essay must be substantially improved to receive a better mark.

A PROCLAMATION

Regarding Late Papers

Whereas it may come to pass that one or more individuals, whether through dilatoriness, dereliction, irresponsibility, or chutzpah, may seek respite and surcease from escritorial demands through procrastination, delay, and downright evasion;

And whereas this unhappy happenstance contributes mightily to malfessance on the part of parties of the second part (i.e. students, the instructed, you) and irascibility on the part of us (i.e., me);

Be it therefor known, understood, apprehended, and comprehended:

That all assignments must reach us, or be deposited in such place that we may obtain them easily (i.e. my mailbox, under my office door, or the Department Receptionist, as may be indicated) on or by the exact hour announced in class, and that failure to comply with this wholesome and most generous regulation shall result in the assignment forfeiting one half letter grade for each day for which it is tardy (i.e. an "A" shall become an "AB"), "one day" being defined as a twenty-four hour period commencing at the announced hour on which the assignment is due; and that the aforementioned reduction in grade shall continue for each succeeding day of delay until either the assignment shall be remitted or its value shrunk into nothingness.

Be it nevertheless affirmed:

That the greater part of justice residing in mercy, it may behoove us, acting entirely through our gracious prerogative, to award an extension in such cases that plainly merit it, such extensions being granted only upon consultation with us, in which case a negotiated due date shall be decide on; it being perfectly well understood that failure to observe this new deadline shall result in the immediate and irreversible failure of the assignment (i.e., an "F"), its value being accounted as a null set and less than that of a vile vote. And be it noted that routine disruptions to routine (i.e. lack of sleep occasioned by pink badgers dancing on the ceiling) do not conduce to mercy, but that severe dislocations brought on by Acts of God (which may be defined as exceedingly traumatic events to the body and/or soul, such as having the earth swallow one up on the way to delbering the assignment) perpetrated either on oneself or on one's loving kindred, do

And we wish to trumpet forth:

That our purpose in declaiming said proclamation, is not essentially to terminate the wanton flouting of didactic intentions, but to encourage our beloved subjects to consult with us, and apprehend us of their difficulties aforehand (i.e., talk to me, baby), so that the cruel axe of the executioner fall not upon their Grade Point Average and smite it with a vengeance.

To which proclamation, we do affix our seal:

