

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, T,Th  
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 & Thursdays  
 5268 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	2211 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.