

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Department of History

Semester Fall Year 1977

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
History 605	The Age of the American Revolution 1763-1789	Professor Pauline Maier

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is divided into two main units: the struggle for independence (or the breakdown of the old Anglo-American order) and the creation of the American republic. The second of these units involves an analysis of the revolutionary meaning of the Americans' commitment to the establishment of a republic, and a close attention to the evolution of republican institutions designed between 1775 and 1787 for the states and for the nation. Readings include a set of books that provide students with a continuous narrative of the period (Christie, Alden, and McLaughlin), but more emphasis will be given to evaluating historical arguments and to interpreting primary source materials. Aside from providing a historical perspective on the forms and meaning of American government, the course should help students understand the mentality of an important earlier generation of Americans whose world was just beyond the pale of that which we can easily understand through an uninformed extension of our own thoughts and experiences.

LECTURES

Twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00-12:15. Students are requested not to attend discussion sections unless they have done the assigned reading.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Two hour exams and a final. Students may also write a research paper. If they choose to do so, they may either skip the second hour examination, or take both hour examinations in addition to the paper. In the latter case, the paper grade will be substituted for the worst of the two hour exams. All students taking the course for honors credit must write the paper. Paper topics must be analytical in character and involve the use of primary sources beyond those assigned as course reading. All topics must be approved by the instructor prior to their preparation.

GRADING SYSTEM

(traditional) The papers must be typed (double-spaced) or clearly hand-written on alternative lines of lined paper, and include footnotes and bibliography in full, correct form.

REQUIRED READINGS

Ian Christie, Crisis of Empire. (Norton)
John Alden, The American Revolution. (Harper Torchbooks)
Andrew C. McLaughlin, The Confederation and the Constitution. (Macmillan)
Merrill Jensen, Tracts of the American Revolution. (Bobbs-Merrill)
Pauline Maier, From Resistance to Revolution. (Vintage)
S. E. Morison, Sources and Documents Illustrating the American Revolution (Oxford)
Gordon Wood, The Creation of the American Republic. (Norton)