

## History 301 Colonial and Revolutionary America (3cr)

Spring 2009

TR 11:30, HH 219

“...I knew, as you know, that no true history of [the American Revolution] ever can be written.”  
John Adams to Benjamin Rush, August 1, 1812

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### Course Objective

The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the causes and consequences of the American Revolution as well as with some of its key personalities. We will consider how events, ideas, and people influenced the development of the new American Republic. Moreover, in addition to historiography, we will consider how the revolutionary generation, as well as those that followed, have remembered the American Revolution.

### Catalog Course Description

Possible themes for this course include the development of British North America; the colonial origins of the revolutionary struggle in America; and finally, an exploration of the American Revolutionary Era, 1765 to 1789.

### Grading Procedure

Students are expected to attend class, be prepared for class, and to participate in class discussions.

**All work must be done as scheduled. Illness or a family emergency are the only exceptions to this policy.**

The grade breakdown is as follows:

Participation	10%
Book Review	15%
Review Essay	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

## *A Note Concerning Exams and Writing Assignments*

The exams will ask students to explore key developments during the revolutionary period or to analyze issues or questions that relate to the era. If a student expects to miss an exam, it is his or her responsibility to inform the instructor in advance in order to get approval to take the make up exam. The make up exam will take place during final exam week at a scheduled time.

Students will be asked to write a book review and a review essay. Details will be provided in class.

Participation includes attendance as well as active engagement in class discussions and online forums (via concourse).

## *Required Reading*

Richard D. Brown, Major Problems in the Era of the American Revolution, 1760-1791, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2000)

Edward Countryman, The American Revolution, Revised Edition (New York: Hill and Wang, 2003, orig. 1985)

David Hackett Fischer, Paul Revere's Ride (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994)

Joseph T. Glatthaar and James Kirby Martin, Forgotten Allies: The Oneida Indians and the American Revolution (New York: Hill and Wang, 2006) (Selections on reserve at the IU Northwest's Library's circulation desk.)

David, McCullough, 1776 (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005)

Peter Shaw, American Patriots and the Rituals of Revolution (Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1981) (Selections on reserve at the IU Northwest's Library's circulation desk.)

Alfred F. Young, The Shoemaker and the Tea Party: Memory and the American Revolution (Boston: Beacon Press, 1999)

Students are expected to be prepared to discuss the assigned reading.

## *Course Calendar*

**January 13:** Introduction. Historiography of the American Revolution  
Syllabus, Benjamin Rush's dream

*Society, Politics, and Empire on the Eve of the American Revolution*

**January 15:** Brown, Major Problems, Chap. 2, docs, 2 &4

**January 20:** Countryman, Chap. 1

*British Reforms, Colonial Resistance, and Imperial Crisis*

**January 22:** Countryman, Chap. 2, pp 34-49; Brown, Chap. 4, docs. 4 & 5

**January 27:** Countryman, Chap. 2, pp 49-66; Brown, Chap. 4, docs. 6, 7, 8, & 9

**January 29:** Shaw, “The Rehearsal of Revolution” (On reserve)

**February 3:** Shaw, “The Child, Revolution,” “Festival, Ritual, and Revolution,” “The Rituals of the American Revolution” (On Reserve)

**February 5:** Countryman, Chap. 3, pp. 67-80

**February 10:** Countryman, Chap. 3, pp. 80-97

**February 12:** Countryman, Chap. 4, pp. 98-107; Brown, Chap. 5, docs. 1, 2, & 3

**February 17:** Countryman, Chap. 4, pp. 107-131

**February 19:** Brown, Chap. 5, docs 7 & 8 (**Hand out midterm**)

**February 24:** Fischer, pp. 3-43

**February 26:** Fischer, pp. 40-77 (**Mid-term due**)

**March 3:** Fischer, pp. 78-137

**March 5:** Fischer, pp. 138-173

**March 10:** Fischer, pp. 174-260

**March 12:** Fischer, pp. 261-295

**March 17:** Spring Break

**March 19:** Spring Break

*Fighting for Independence*

**March 24: Book Review on Paul Revere’s Ride due;** Brown, Chap. 6, docs. 1, 2, 3, & 4 and John W Shy, “Hearts and Minds: The Case of “Long Bill” Scott; **Begin reading McCullough, 1776, the subject of review essay.** (See Handout)

**March 26:** Brown, docs. 5, 6, & 7 and Don Higginbotham, “The Strengths and Weaknesses of the Militia”

*Outsiders and Enemies during the American Revolution: Loyalists and American Indians*

**March 31:** Brown, Chap. 7, docs. 1-9

*African-Americans and the American Revolution*

**April 2:** Brown, Chap. 8, docs 1-6

*Gender, Citizenship, and the American Revolution*

**April 7:** Brown, Chap. 9, docs. 1-4

*Establishing the American Republic*

**April 9:** Countryman, pp. 132-140, 167-189

**April 14:** Brown, Chap. 13, pp.440-444, 452, 462-463

**April 16:** Countryman, Chap. 7

*Memory and the American Revolution*

**April 21:** Young, Pt. 1 Chaps.1-6

**April 23:** Young, Pt. 1 Chaps. 7-13

**April 28:** Young, Pt. 2, pp. 87-91, Chaps. 1-6; Glatthaar and Martin, “Prologue: The Revolution’s Jubilee, the Marquis de Lafayette, and selective Historical Memory” & “Epilogue: From Jubilee to Centennial Celebrations and beyond: Toward the Restoration of Historical Memory” & “Afterword: New Beginnings amid Revived Memories” (On Reserve)

**April 30:** Young, Pt. 2, Chaps. 7-9, Afterword

**May 5, 2009: Final Exam**

**Please note that the Final Exam will take place at our regular meeting time.**

The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus. Students will be informed of any changes.