

History 4068/6068 American Revolution, Spring 2010

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This course will plumb the political, military, social, and economic history of British North America and the United States, 1765-1800. Students will read a wide range of primary and secondary works. Secondary accounts include contrasting interpretations of the Revolution by Gary Nash and Gordon Wood. Primary readings will emphasize the Great Awakening, slavery, political rights, and the beginnings of American culture, with readings on other topics added as needed. At each class meeting, we will first discuss the day's readings. **All Students are required to prepare the day's readings and participate in class discussions.** Undergraduates will complete a midterm examination, two short essays (3-4 pages, 900-1500 words) on assigned topics, and a take-home final. Each essay, the midterm, and the final will count equally. Graduate students will write a short (10-15 page) analytic paper, on an approved topic. **Class attendance is mandatory. Any absence, for any reason (except hospitalization) beyond three will be penalized.**

Readings: \***Readings indicated by document numbers, e.g. #10; \*\*read entire early in semester, then review)**

Gordon Wood, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution (Radicalism)\*\**

Gary Nash, *The Unknown American Revolution (Unknown)\*\**

Thomas Kidd, ed., *The Great Awakening: A Brief History with Documents\** (*Awakening*)

Thomas Paine. *Common Sense*. **Buy the Penguin Classics edition; the introduction is a key text.**

Woody Holton, *Black Americans in the Revolutionary Era (Black Americans)*

Joseph Plumb Martin, *Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier*

Jack N. Rakove, *Declaring Rights: A Brief History with Documents\** (*Rights*)

Eve Kornfeld, *Creating an American Culture, 1775-1800 A Brief History with Documents\** (*Culture*)

*Avalon Project*, [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject\\_menus/18th.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/18th.asp), (*Avalon*)

*William and Mary Quarterly* in JSTOR (*WMQ*)

Pre-Revolutionary Society

- January 7 Lecture: Bloody ground of Revolutionary historiography
- January 12 Lecture: The Great Revivals. Reading: *Awakening*, pp. 1-26 and #s 1-8, 18-19, 24, 30-35; *Black Americans*, #9; *Unknown*, 146-49.
- January 14 Lecture: The Colonial Household Economy. Reading: *Radicalism*, chap. 9; *Awakening*, #s 9-16.
- January 19 Lecture: Provincial society. Reading: *Unknown*, 1-43; *Radicalism*, chap. 7-8; *Awakening*, #s 20-23, 25-29; *Black Americans* 2-4 and #s 1-2, 4, 24, 33.
- January 26 Lecture: Politics in Provincial America. Reading: *Radicalism*, intro., chaps. 1-2, 4; *Rights*, 1-4, 7-38 and # 1; Albany plan of Union, *Avalon*.
- January 28 Lecture: Regulator Revolts. Reading: *Unknown*, 72-87, 103-14; *Radicalism*, chap. 3; Arthur Palmer Hudson, "Songs of the North Carolina Regulators," *WMQ* 4 (1947): 470-85.

The Revolutionary Crisis and the Coming of War

- February 2 Lecture: Growth of Whig Ideology. Reading: *Radicalism*, chaps. 5-6; *Black Americans*, #3.
- February 4 Lecture: Stamp Act. Reading: *Unknown*, 44-65; *Rights*, #s 2-4; Parliament: Stamp Act; Resolutions of Congress; Resolves of Pennsylvania Assembly; Declaratory Act, and Repeal Act, *Avalon*; Benjamin Franklin, "Examination before the Committee of the Whole of the House of Commons, Feb 1766, <http://franklinpapers.org/franklin/framedVolumes.jsp>
- February 9 Lecture: Growing Crescendo of Crisis. Reading: *Unknown*, 88-103; *Radicalism*, chs. 10-12; Dickinson, *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*, letters #2, 4, 6, [http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com\\_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=690&Itemid=27](http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=690&Itemid=27); Continental Association, <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/timeline/amrev/rebelln/assoc.html>; *Rights*, #5-6; Boston Port Act; Massachusetts Government Act; Declaration 1<sup>st</sup> Congress, Oct. 14, 1774; Declaration of Taking Up Arms, 1775, all at *Avalon*;
- February 11 Lecture: Plebeian Revolution. Reading: Alfred F. Young, "George Robert Twelves Hewes: A Boston Shoemaker and the Memory of the American Revolution," *WMQ* 38 (1981): 562-623, JSTOR; *Unknown*, 178-89; *Rights*, #7; *Black Americans*, #s 6, 8, 10.
- February 16 Lecture: Declaration of Independence. Reading: Paine, *Common Sense*; *Unknown*, 189-216;

Radicalism, chap. 13; *Black Americans*, #13; Declaration of Causes and Declaration of Independence, *Avalon*. **First Short Paper Due**

February 18 Lecture: Loyalist persuasion. Reading: *Unknown*, 238-47; Jonathan Boucher, "On Civil Liberty," at <http://www.constitution.org/bcp/nonresis.htm>; Documents from *American Archives*; Hutchinson on Declaration of Independence and Benjamin Rush on Loyalists.

February 23 **Midterm**

#### The War Years, 1775-1783

February 25 Lecture: Wartime Economy Reading: Begin Martin, *Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier*.

March 2 Lecture: Military Strategy. Reading: *Unknown*, 339-45; Washington to Congress, Sept 24, 1776 (2<sup>nd</sup> letter) & Dec. 24 1776, vol. 6, Fitzpatrick, ed., *Washington Writings* and vol. 19 Circular to the States 15, Aug. 27, 1780 *ibid* vol 19, <http://etext.virginia.edu/washington/fitzpatrick/>.

March 4 Lecture: The Civilian's War. Reading: Allan Kulikoff, "Revolutionary Violence and the Origins of American Democracy," *Journal of the Historical Society* 2 (2002): 229-60; Sung Bok Kim, "Limits of Politicization in the American Revolution: The Experience of Westchester County" *Journal of American History* 80 (1993): 868-89. (JSTOR); *Unknown*, 232-38, 306-20, 387-85.

March 16 Lecture: The Soldier's War. Reading: *Unknown*, 216-23, 357-76; Martin, *Narrative*

March 18 Lecture: The Slaves' War and its Aftermath. Reading: *Unknown*, 114-28, 150-66, 223-32, 320-39, 402-17; *Black Americans*, 4-16, 57 and #s 11-12, 14-19, 38.

March 23 Lecture: Indians and the Struggle for Empire and Independence. Reading: *Unknown*, 66-72, 128-33, 166-77, 247-63, 345-57, 376-87; Speech to Six Nations, *Avalon*; Sullivan Expedition Records.

March 25 Lecture: The Aftermath of War. Reading: *American Culture*, #s 23, 25-26; Daniel Boone and John Filson, *Adventures of Col. Daniel Boon*; and John Filson, *The Discovery, Settlement and Present State of Kentucke*, selections (WEB-CT); **Second Short Paper Due**.

#### The Confederation

March 30 Lecture: The American Revolution as a Bourgeois Revolution. Reading: *Radicalism*, chap. 15, 17; *Culture*, #s 7-9, 21-22; *Black Americans*, 16-20, 70 and #5, 7, 20-23, 25-32, 35.

April 1 Lecture: "Critical" Period, Reading: *Radicalism*, ch 14; *Unknown*, 264-305; Articles of Confederation & Northwest Ordinance, *Avalon*; Madison to Jefferson, Apr 23, 1787, [http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com\\_staticxt&staticfile=show.php&title=1934&search=%22vices+of+the+political+system%22&layout=html#a\\_2395161](http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php&title=1934&search=%22vices+of+the+political+system%22&layout=html#a_2395161) in Madison, *Writings*, vol 2 (last Jefferson letter in volume); *Rights*, #s 8-11.

April 2 Lecture: Massachusetts Regulation. Reading: *Unknown*, 395-401; documents from "In the Public Eye," "Republic of MA," & "Dear Friend," <http://shaysrebellion.stcc.edu/shaysapp/artifacts/home.do>.

April 6 Lecture: Federalist Persuasion. Reading: *Rights*, 99-115 & #s 13-14; U.S. Constitution, Articles 1-7, *Avalon*; Convention, Notes May 31, June 4 (Committee of Whole), June 18, 1787, [http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com\\_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=1935&layout=html](http://oll.libertyfund.org/index.php?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=1935&layout=html), Madison, *Writings*, vol 3.

April 8 Lecture: Ratification of the Constitution. Readings: *Federalist Papers*, #10, 39, 48, 51, 84; and Bill of Rights, *Avalon*; *Rights*, #s 15-17, 23-25; Patrick Henry speech at Virginia ratifying convention, <http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/v1ch8s38.html> Massachusetts Convention, Jan 25, Singletary & Smith in Elliot, *Debates*, 2, [http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com\\_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=1906&chapter=112216&layout=html&Itemid=27](http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=1906&chapter=112216&layout=html&Itemid=27);

#### Forging a New Nation

April 13 Lecture: Republican Mothers & Working Women. *Unknown*, 133-46, 417-22; *American Culture* #s 10-11, 20; Abigail to John Adams, 31 March 1776; JA to AA, 14 April 1776, Adams Archive, [http://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/aea/browse/letters\\_1774\\_1777.html](http://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/aea/browse/letters_1774_1777.html); Martha Ballard textile production, <http://dohistory.org/diary/themes/textile/index.html>

April 15 Lecture: Second Great Awakening. Reading: *Awakening*, #s 17, 36; *Rights*, #12; Cane Ridge Documents, Web-CT

April 20 Lecture: A Revolution in 1800? Reading: *Unknown*, 423-55; *Black Americans*, #36.

April 22 Lecture: The Jeffersonian Persuasion. Reading: *Radicalism*, chaps. 16, 18-19.

April 27 Toward an American Culture Reading: *Culture*, 1-53 & #s 1-6, 12-19 **Take-home final due**.