

History 4990: The American Revolution, Spring 2008

Instructor: Allan Kulikoff Office: LeConte 224
Office Hours: Tu-Th, 2-3 Emails: kulikoff@uga.edu; kulikoffxie@gmail.com

The goal of History 4990, the History major capstone course, is to write a 20-25 page (around 10,000 word) article-length paper, answering a critical historical question, using a small body of primary sources, on some aspect of the American Revolution. We will use class time in three ways: discussion of the mechanics and methods of writing a research paper; discussion of appropriate primary and secondary sources; and discussions of paper drafts and final versions. We will not discuss the American Revolution (the instructor is teaching History 4068, which covers the era and all students are urged, if possible to enroll). But you should know something about the period. I list three recommended texts below and urge those not enrolled in 4068 to follow the main assignments in those texts there.

We will not meet each session as a class. During those days, the instructor will hold individual meetings with each student or be available for appointments.

There is very little time to complete the paper, just 16 weeks. For that reason, students **must** meet all deadlines as listed in the syllabus or face the possibility of being dropped from the course. **Class attendance is mandatory. Any absence, for any reason (except hospitalization) beyond two will be penalized.**

Assigned Texts:

Jules R. Benjamin, *A Student's Guide to History*

Recommended Texts:

Richard D. Brown, ed., *Major Problems in the Era of the American Revolution*, 2nd ed (2000)

Gordon Wood, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*

Gary Nash, *The Unknown American Revolution*

Jan 8	Introduction to the course
Jan 10	Databases at UGA: meet with Nan McMurray at the Library. Reading: Benjamin, <i>Student's Guide</i> , 185-204, 223-42 (skim, noting potentially useful resources) and chap. 4
Jan 15	Databases at UGA: second meeting with Nan McMurray
Jan 17	Discussion: doing research papers. Assignment: 400 word prospectus for your paper. This must include a thesis paragraph (what topic have you chosen; what historical questions do you anticipate answering) and a paragraph detailing the sources (types and examples) that you intend to use.
Jan 22	No class: individual meetings with the instructor
Jan 24	No class: individual meetings with the instructor
Jan 29	Discussion: how to make historical arguments. Assignment due: preliminary bibliography of primary and secondary sources.
Jan 31	Reading: Benjamin, <i>Student's Guide</i> , chap. 5. Discussion: interface between research, argument, and writing.

Feb 5	Assignment due: detailed analysis of one article on your broad topic, from the <i>William and Mary Quarterly</i> . Discussion of articles in class.
Feb 7	Free period: continue research. Instructor available for appointments.
Feb 12	Free period: continue research. Instructor available for appointments.
Feb 14	Reading: Benjamin, <i>Student's Guide</i> , chap. 3. Discussion: process of writing and writing problems.
Feb 19	Partial drafts due, approximately 8-10 pages of writing. Drafts will be critiqued by student partner and by instructor.
Feb 21	No class: individual meetings with the instructor
Feb 26	No class: individual meetings with the instructor
Feb 28-Mar 6	No class. Complete research and continue writing on drafts; instructor will be available for appointments,
Mar 18	No class. Writing: drafts due by 5 PM March 17, via email.
Mar 20	Begin discussion of drafts by student partner and by instructor.
Mar 25	Finish discussion of drafts by student partner and by instructor.
Mar 27	No class: individual meetings with the instructor
Apr 1	No class: individual meetings with the instructor
Apr 3	No class: individual meetings with the instructor
Apr 8	No class; second drafts due by 5 PM April 7.
Apr 10	Begin discussion of second drafts by student partner and by instructor.
Apr 15	Finish discussion of second drafts by student partner and by instructor.
Apr 17	No class: final appointments with the instructor
Apr 22	No class: final appointments with the instructor
Apr 24	End of semester celebration, with short reports on each paper. Final drafts due.