

History 387: Revolutionary America

Fall 2017

Section 1: TR 12:30-1:45, 231 CCC

"The world will never be the same." –Lin-Manuel Miranda, *Hamilton: An American Musical*, 2015

"Meet the new boss. Same as the old boss." –Pete Townshend, "Won't Get Fooled Again," 1971

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Office Hours: Mondays 11:00-12:00, Tuesdays 2:00-4:00, and by appointment

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

History 387 introduces students to the study of North America in the era of the American Revolution (roughly 1763-1800). After completing the course, you will be able to:

- Describe key aspects of the history of revolutionary America
- Identify and interpret primary sources useful for studying revolutionary America
- Explain major ideas in the historiography of revolutionary America

Required Texts

- Fenn, *Pox Americana* (PA), text rental
- Taylor, *American Revolutions: A Continental History* (ARCH), text rental
- Young et al, eds., *Revolutionary Founders* (RF), text rental

Contacting Me

Helping you learn is the most important and most rewarding part of my job.

If you have questions about the course, or want to improve your performance, please either visit me during office hours or contact me by email at <rharper@uwsp.edu> to make an appointment. Please include "History 387" in the subject line.

Assignments and Workload

To succeed in this class, you must attend and participate regularly, complete all assigned reading, and take effective notes on readings, lectures, and class discussions. Absences from class, either physical or mental, will bring down your grade. As with any three-credit course, you should expect to spend **6-9 hours each week** on coursework outside of class. If you are worried about your progress, please contact me ASAP to discuss how to improve.

During the semester, you will write two major essays (4-5 double-spaced pages each). At the end of the semester you will complete a take-home essay exam (4-5 double-spaced pages total). You will also complete individual and group in-class assignments. During in-class quizzes, you may not consult any books or electronic devices, but you may ALWAYS consult handwritten notes.

Attendance

If you must miss class, please obtain notes from a classmate. You will receive a zero on any quiz or in-class work you miss. To accommodate scheduling conflicts and emergencies, your two lowest in-class work scores will not count toward the final grade. If you must miss many class meetings, please see me ASAP to discuss your options.

Grading

Attendance & participation:	10%
In-class work:	15%
Essay #1:	25%
Essay #2:	25%
Final exam:	25%

Students with Disabilities

I will make every reasonable effort to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities. Any student requesting such accommodation must first meet with UWSP Disability Services staff. That meeting should take place as early in the semester as possible. No accommodation will be granted until I receive and agree to a formal plan approved by Disability Services.

Desire2Learn (D2L)

All course handouts, supplementary readings, and other useful information will be posted on our D2L site, available at <http://www.uwsp.edu/d2l>.

Academic Integrity

Cases of academic misconduct, including plagiarism, will be formally reported following the policies laid out in UWSP's Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures. Plagiarism consists of submitting work created by someone else as your own. For more information on academic integrity, please ask me or consult <http://library.uwsp.edu/Guides/VRD/plagiarism.htm>. Students found to have committed academic misconduct will receive an F for the course.

Course Outline

The following schedule is subject to revision. Changes will be announced in class and on D2L.

Unit 1: Empires and Crises

Tuesday, Sept. 5: introductions

Thursday, Sept. 7: Historians

- Read the syllabus; pick up text rentals & pocket dictionary; log into D2L
- Watch *Patriots Day*, from American Experience (PBS, 2003)
<https://vimeo.com/marianmarzynski/patriots-day>
- RF, introduction
- ARCH, introduction
⇒ In what ways do the authors want to change your understanding of the revolution?

Tuesday, Sept. 12: Context

- ARCH ch. 1

Thursday, Sept. 14: Variola Major

- PA, intro. and ch. 1
- Watch excerpt of HBO's *John Adams*: https://youtu.be/TWxDLG9_eOU
- Watch "How we conquered the deadly smallpox virus": <https://youtu.be/yqUFy-t4MIQ>
 - ⇒ What factors made smallpox so deadly? What factors limited its deadliness?
 - ⇒ Why was smallpox deadlier for Native Americans than Europeans?
 - ⇒ How accurately does the HBO video depict the inoculation of the Adams family?

Tuesday, Sept. 19: eliminate this day, break up ch. 2 pages across other days?

- ARCH ch. 2

Thursday, Sept. 21: Protesters

- ARCH 91-112
- RF ch. 1 ("Ebenezer Macintosh")
 - ⇒ Forget the coming revolution. How would you describe the protests of the 1760s?

Tuesday, Sept. 26: Resisters

- ARCH 112-28
- RF ch. 2 ("Timothy Bigelow")
 - ⇒ What does Worcester's story add to our understanding of the imperial crisis?

Unit 2: Independence and War

Thursday, Sept. 28: Resistance

- ARCH 131-54
- PA ch. 2

Tuesday, Oct. 3: Revolution

- ARCH 155-73
- Excerpts from *Common Sense* (1776)

Thursday, Oct. 5: War

- ARCH 194-209
- PA ch. 3

Tuesday, Oct. 10: Alliances

- ARCH 211-26
- RF ch. 11 (Doxtaders)
- Calloway, "Stockbridge: The New England Patriots," from *The American Revolution in Indian Country: Crisis and Diversity in Native American Communities* (1995)

Thursday, Oct. 12: War, and Variola, go south

- ARCH 226-49
- PA ch. 4

Tuesday, Oct. 17: Unsettling the west

- ARCH 251-263
- RF ch. 11 (Dragging Canoe)
- Harper, "Reluctance," from *Unsettling the West: Violence and State Building in the Ohio Valley* (2018)

Thursday, Oct. 19: Endgame

- ARCH 281-302
- RF ch. 7 (Martin)

Unit 3: Society and Culture

Tuesday, Oct. 24: Establishments and dissidents

- ARCH 437-52
- RF ch. 10 (Virginia Baptists)

Thursday, Oct. 26: Evangelicals and genders

- Brekus, "Women in the Wilderness," in *Strangers and Pilgrims: Female Preaching in America, 1740-1845* (2000)
- Lindman, "Acting the Manly Christian: White Evangelical Masculinity in Revolutionary Virginia" (2000)

Essay #1 due on D2L before class on Oct. 26

Tuesday, Oct. 31: Mothers and others

- ARCH 452-62
- Crane, "The Revolution was hardly Radical for Women" (1998)
- Hartigan-O'Connor, "Urban Housefuls," in *The Ties that Buy: Women and Commerce in Revolutionary America* (2009)

Thursday, Nov. 2: Rights of women

- RF chs. 16-17 (Abigail Adams; Judith Sargent Murray)
- Judith Sargent Murray, "On the Equality of the Sexes,"
<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/murray/equality/equality.html>

Tuesday, Nov. 7: A sexual revolution?

- Godbeer, "'Martyrdom to Venus': Sexual Freedom in Post-Independence Philadelphia," from *Sexual Revolution in Early America* (2002)
- Lyons, "Mapping an Atlantic Sexual Culture: Homoeroticism in Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia" (2003)
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Thursday, Nov. 9: Liberty for... all?

- ARCH 462-76
- RF ch. 18 (Hall, Allen, Coker)
- Adams and Pleck, "Citizenship," from *Love of Freedom: Black Women in Colonial and Revolutionary New England* (2010)

Unit 4: The Continent

Tuesday, Nov. 14: New Spain

- Duval, excerpts from *Independence Lost* (2015)
- ARCH 263-78
- PA ch. 5

Thursday, Nov. 16: The north country

- PA ch. 6
- Murphy, "Creole Communities," from *A Gathering of Rivers* (2000)

Tuesday, Nov. 21: The plains

- PA ch. 7
- Hamalainen, "New Order," from *Comanche Empire* (2008)

Thursday, Nov. 23: give thanks

Tuesday, Nov. 28: The northwest

- PA ch. 8
- View Webber sketches

Unit 5: Constitutions

Thursday, Nov. 30: Refugees and settlements

- ARCH 313-27, 334-51
- RF ch. 9 (Perth, Washington, Wilkinson)

Essay #2 due on D2L before class on Dec. 5.

Tuesday, Dec. 5: Critical period

- ARCH 353-74
- Shays's Rebellion documents (1786-87)

Thursday, Dec. 7: Framers

- ARCH 374-93
- The Constitution of the United States (1787)
- Excerpts from Philadelphia convention debates (1787)

Tuesday, Dec. 12: Factions

- ARCH 395-414
- RF chs. 14, 20 (Bradford/Findlay and Coram)
- The Bill of Rights (ratified 1791)

Thursday, Dec. 14: Parties

- ARCH 415-34, 477-80
- RF ch. 21

Final Exam due Tuesday, Dec. 19, 10:00 a.m.