Objectives

This course introduces students to the major peoples, issues and historical events of the American Revolutionary Era. It also introduces students to the major historiographic trends associated with how people have told and remembered this important period. Students will develop the skills needed for the practice of history through frequent writing assignments, in-class exercises that introduce them to different types of primary source materials, an in-depth reading of six texts that examine the American Revolutionary Era from different perspectives, and an 8-10 page research paper that builds on the required readings.

Required Texts


Evaluation

- Midterm exam (Nov. 2) 25%
- Final paper (8-10 pgs, due Dec. 12) 25%
- Position paper (1-2 pgs, due Sept. 26) 5%
- Critique book reviews (1-2 pgs, due Oct. 10) 5%
- Review of *Common Sense* (3-5 pgs, due Oct. 17) 10%
- Submit topic for final paper (due Oct. 31)
- Review of Middlekauf (750 words, due Nov. 28) 15%
- Participation 15%
HIST 361 – AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY ERA

Th Sept 07  Introduction

Tu Sept 12  Historiography of the American Revolution
            Read: Fischer, historiographic essay (pp. 327-44)
            Raphael, Introduction and Ch. 7 (pp. 1-11, 381-99)
            Longfellow, *Paul Revere's Ride* (handout)

Th Sept 14  Backstory: The British Colonies before 1750
            Read: Oliver, intro by Adair and Schutz (pp. vii-xxi)
            Oliver, Ch. 1 (pp. 3-26)
            Middlekauf, Prologue Ch. 1-3 (pp. 3-69)

Tu Sept 19  Daily Life Before the Revolution
            Read: Buel and Buel, Ch. 1-3 (pp. 3-71)
            Weems, Ch. 1-4 (pp. 1-28)

Th Sept 21  The “French and Indian War” Years
            Read: Weems, Ch. 5-7 (pp. 29-54)

Tu Sept 26  The Captivity Narrative of Mrs. Susannah Johnson
            Read: Johnson, *Captivity Narrative* (online)
            Journal of Maj. Robert Rogers, excerpt (online)
            Day, “Rogers’ Raid in Oral Tradition” (e-reserve)

Assignment due: Position paper (1-2 pgs)

Were the colonists justified in complaining about Britain’s
decision to tax them to pay for the war?

Th Sept 28  Ferment
            Read: Raphael, Ch. 1 (pp. 13-58)
            Oliver, Ch. 2-end (pp. 27-168)

Tu Oct 03  Ferment
            Read: Fischer (pp. xiii-164)
            Browse: *The Battle of Bunker Hill* (Massachusetts Historical Society)

Th Oct 05  Resistance
            Read: Buel and Buel, Ch. 4 (pp. 75-104)
            Raphael, Ch. 3 (pp. 135-181) – women
Tu Oct 10  Resistance
Read: Fischer (pp. 165-295 plus App. C and D, pp. 299-307)

Assignment due:
Locate 2 reviews of Fischer, Paul Revere’s Ride, from academic journals. Write a 1-2 page critique of these reviews based on your own reading of the book.

Th Oct 12  Reading Day – No class

Tu Oct 17  Common Sense
Read: Paine, Common Sense (online)

Assignment due:
You are Peter Oliver. Write a review of Common Sense.

Tu Oct 24  The Continental Army
Read: Raphael, Ch. 2 (pp. 59-133) – soldiers
Browse: Orderly Books Index

Th Oct 26  African Americans and the Revoution
Read: Raphael, Ch. 6 (pp. 309-379) – African Americans

Tu Oct 31  Aftermath of the War
Read: Weems, Ch. 11 (pp. 128-163)
Buel and Buel, Ch. 6 (pp. 145-71)

Due: Topic for final paper

Th Nov 02  Midterm Exam

Tu Nov 07  Writing a History Paper
Read: Writing College Papers, skim all but we will discuss Ch. 2 and Ch. 9 in class
Read: Handout on citation format.
NOTE: BRING THE BOOK TO CLASS!!!

Th Nov 09  Shay’s Rebellion
Read: Buel and Buel, Ch. 7 (pp. 175-204)
Read: TBA
Tu Nov 14  State and Federal Constitutions
Read:  U.S. Constitution
       Connecticut
       Delaware
       Georgia
       Maryland
       Massachusetts
       New Hampshire
       New Jersey
       New York
       North Carolina
       Pennsylvania
       Rhode Island
       South Carolina
       Virginia

In-class exercise: Debating the Constitution

Th Nov 16  Life in the Early Republic
Read:  Buel and Buel, Ch. 8-9 (pp. 205-81 plus 299-301)

Tu Nov 21  Liberty for Whom? The Revolution and Indigenous Peoples
Read:  Raphael, Ch. 5 (pp. 235-307) – Indigenous peoples
       Treaty of Watertown, 1776 (online)

Th Nov 23  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Tu Nov 28  Interpreting the American Revolution
Due:  Review of Middlekauf, The Glorious Cause

Th Nov 30  Public Memory and the Revolution
Guest speaker:  Professor David Glassberg
Read:  Weems, introduction by Cunliffe (pp. ix-lxii)
Browse:  Fourth of July orations

Tu Dec 05  Class presentations

Th Dec 07  Class presentations

Tu Dec 12  FINAL PAPERS DUE