

Johns Hopkins University
History 100.241 (01/02): Revolutionary America

Fall 2020

M/W/F 11-11:50 am & F noon-12:50 p.m.

PM's office hours M 1:00-2:00 p.m. and by appointment

T/As: Olivia Barnard and Julia Wu

OB's office hours: F: 1.00-2:00 p.m. & by appointment [OB will lead the discussion on F 11:00 to 11:50 a.m.]

JW's office hours: M: 12:30-1:30 p.m. & by appointment [JW will lead the discussion on F 12:00 to 12:50 p.m.]

Philip Morgan

online

pmorgan@jhu.edu

obarnar1@jhu.edu; mwu73@jhu.edu

Overview

This course provides an intensive introduction to the causes, character, and consequences of the American Revolution, the colonial rebellion that produced the first republic in the Americas, and set in motion an age of democratic revolutions in the Atlantic world. A remarkable epoch in world history, the revolutionary era was of momentous significance. It began with the first global military conflict--the Seven Years' War. The aftermath of that event helped produce one of the longest wars in American history--the American Revolutionary War--which in turn proved to be America's first civil war. Finally, the era ended with a period of creative political experimentation first at the state and later federal level and extensive nation-building. The impact of the Revolution in social, economic, and cultural terms will be fully assessed.

Goals

The course has a number of goals. First, it traces the conflicts from the beginnings of colonial resistance through the contentious process that led to the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Second, it considers the varied experiences of Indians, African-Americans, ordinary men and women, loyalists and rebels. Third, it emphasizes the wider ramifications of the conflict, particularly the impact of the revolution on the larger world. Finally, it introduces some of the finest historians who have worked on the American Revolution, along with some snippets and occasional longer extracts drawn from primary sources on which they base their judgments.

Website:

This course has a Blackboard site [blackboard.jhu.edu] which you should consult frequently for handouts, powerpoint presentations, and announcements. Handouts will occur periodically throughout the semester. As this course takes place during the presidential election period, we can expect to think about the connections between past and present. The American Revolution is an event whose meaning cannot be confined to the past. Because the Revolution was the crucial event for the formation of American nationality, our current sense of the United States will influence the ways in which we see and understand the Revolution.

Assignments and Grade Composition:

This course's requirements and grade composition are:

- 1) Class participation: 20%
- 2) Reading Responses (300 words each): 20%
- 3) Response to Film (600 words): 10% (Due: October 12)
- 4) First Paper (ca. 6 pp): 20% (Due: October 19)

5) Final Paper (ca. 8 pp.): 30% (Due: December 14)

In-class discussion will comprise a significant portion of the grade. Students are expected to come to class ready to discuss the assigned reading and to take an active part in discussions. The quality of your contributions is what will be assessed. To that end, each week students will write a 300-word response to the readings, to be posted on Blackboard on Thursday, 5:00 p.m, before the Friday discussion (* excellent; + satisfactory; - unsatisfactory will be the markings). During week 6, you will watch a film and respond to it. Finally, you will write two papers. The paper questions will be provided well in advance.

Grading Policy

To ensure fair grading, the TAs and I will coordinate regularly. If you need more feedback than one of the three marks on your responses, then contact the TA first. If you have further questions, contact me. For the Fall semester, the default grading policy is S/U. However, if you prefer to receive a grade, please contact us by the S/U deadline which is T.B.A. You must complete all written work to receive a Satisfactory grade in the course.

Absences and extensions:

Extensions for written work will be given only in the case of a documented medical or family emergency. You will be allowed one unexcused absence from Section Discussion without it affecting your grade. If you are struggling with anxiety, stress, depression or other mental health related concerns, or are concerned about a friend, please contact the Counseling Center at <http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/counselingcenter>.

The grades of late assignments will be lowered one level for each day they are late (i.e. a B+ will be lowered to a B if one day late, to a B- if two days late, and so on).

Academic Dishonesty:

You are expected to be honest and truthful. Cheating hurts our community by undermining academic integrity, creating mistrust and fostering unfair competition. Ethical violations and plagiarism will be punished.

Violations can include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments without permission, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorised collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery, falsification and lying.

For more information, see the guide on “Academic Ethics for Undergraduates” and the Ethics Board web site at <http://ethics.jhu.edu>.

Class Format:

All classes will be conducted online via Zoom. The format of the class is lecture and discussion. Lectures and discussion will be live, but powerpoints of lectures will be posted on Blackboard. Lecture and discussion occur on M and W: section discussion takes place in two

separate time slots on F. All students should come to discussion section prepared to comment on, and critique, the assigned reading and ask questions. Participation in lecture and online discussions contributes to your grade.

Zoom Protocol:

In lecture, please keep video on and audio off. Use the chat function if you have questions and you will be called upon. In section, please keep both video and audio on.

Reading:

Richard D. Brown and Benjamin L. Carp, eds., *Major Problems in the Era of the American Revolution, 1760-1791*. 3rd edition (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage, 2013).

Joseph Plumb Martin, *A Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier: Some of the Adventures, Dangers, and Sufferings of Joseph Plumb Martin* (New York: New American Library, 2001)

Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, ed. Isaac Kramnick (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1982) or another edition

Gordon S. Wood, *The American Revolution* (New York: Modern Library Edition, 2002)

Alfred F. Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party: Memory and the American Revolution* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2000)

SCHEDULE

Week 1

August 31: Introduction

September 2: Atlantic context

Week 2

September 7: **LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**

September 9: The Seven Years' War: Origins and Character

Brown, *Major Problems*, 36-77

Wood, *American Revolution*, 4-24

Week 3

September 14: The Seven Years' War: Consequences

September 16: Socio-Economic Background

Brown, *Major Problems*, 78-116

Wood, *American Revolution*, 27-44

Week 4

September 21: Stamp Act Crisis

September 23: Intellectual World

Paine, *Common Sense*
Brown, *Major Problems*, 117-135

Week 5

September 28: Religious World
September 30: From Resistance to Revolution
Brown, *Major Problems*, 150-171
Wood, *American Revolution*, 47-62

Week 6

October 5: Watch Mary Silliman's War first half
October 7: Watch Mary Silliman's War second half
Martin, *A Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier*, 1-129

Week 7

October 12: War of Independence I
October 14: War of Independence II
Martin, *A Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier*, 130-253

Week 8

October 19: Loyalism
October 21: Indians
Brown, *Major Problems*, 172-246
Wood, *American Revolution*, 65-88

FIRST PAPER DUE: OCTOBER 19 5:00 p.m.

Week 9.

October 26: African Americans
October 28: Women
Brown, *Major Problems*, 247-326
Wood, *American Revolution*, 91-109

Week 10

November 2: White Men
November 4: Founding New Regimes
Young, *Shoemaker*, 1-84
Wood, *American Revolution*, 113-135

Week 11

November 9: Republican Society
November 11: Confederation
Young, *Shoemaker*, 87-207
Brown, *Major Problems*, 365-408

Week 12

November 16: The Constitution and Ratification

November 18: Social World of Post-Revolutionary America

Brown, *Major Problems*, 409-488

Wood, *American Revolution*, 139-166

Week 13 THANKSGIVING WEEK NOVEMBER 23-27

Week 14

November 30: Cultural World of Post-Revolutionary America

December 2: The Age of Revolutions I

Brown, *Major Problems*, 327-364, 489-540

Week 15

December 7: The Age of Revolutions II

December 9: How Revolutionary was the Revolution?

Brown, *Major Problems*, 1-34

FINAL PAPER DUE: DECEMBER 14 5:00 p.m.