This course will explore political, social, and military developments in the era of the American Revolution. Through a combination of secondary and primary readings we will examine the contest for power between Britain and the colonies and within the colonies themselves as they moved toward independence and into nationhood. The course will examine traditional views of the Revolution as well as more recent interpretations that stress such issues as class conflict, the role of women, African Americans, and Indians, and the importance of the Revolution in generating worldwide political and social change. Approximately one-third of the semester will be spent discussing the causes of the Revolution; one-third on the war for independence; and one-third on the struggle for control in the new nation through the era of Constitution-making and the late eighteenth century.

Please obtain these required books:


**Requirements**

1. Two 4-page papers (12 pt., double-spaced) on the books *Ordinary Courage* (due Oct. 5) and *Black Americans in the Revolutionary Era* (Nov. 30). The assignments will be distributed early in the semester.

2. Two in-class tests on the books *American Scripture* (Sept. 21) and *Unruly Americans* (Nov. 9). A set of study questions will be distributed well before each test.

3. Examinations. There will be one mid-term and a final exam, both consisting primarily of essay questions.

4. Attendance policy. Students will be expected to attend class regularly and to keep up with reading assignments, which average about 75 pages per week. There is an attendance policy: everyone is allowed three absences regardless of the reason; no excuse or physician’s note is needed (except for a missed exam). Each subsequent absence, however, will result in a drop of half a letter grade in the final average for the term (students who are forced to miss more classes because of serious or chronic medical problems or family emergencies should consult with the instructor).

Your final grade (based on a 10-point scale) will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two tests</td>
<td>20% (10 ea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 4-page papers</td>
<td>30% (15 ea)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Attribution of written work.** In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else’s work. Failure to give credit by quoting and/or footnoting is plagiarism and is unacceptable. Please review the University’s honesty policy at [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm).

**Technology in the classroom.** Texting, email, Facebook, surfing, shopping, stock-trading, poker-playing, e-harmonizing and all other purposes unrelated to class are prohibited.

**Disability accommodation.** Students with disabilities requesting accommodation should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor early in the semester.
Schedule


   Reading: Countryman, *American Revolution*, chap. 1

Week 3. (Labor Day Sept. 3) Sept. 5 – 7. Reform and Resistance
   Reading: Countryman, *American Revolution*, chap. 2

   Reading: Countryman, *American Revolution*, chap. 3

Week 5. Sept. 17 – 21. Toward Independence
   Maier, *American Scripture*, test Fri. Sept. 21

   Countryman, *American Revolution*, chap. 4


Week 8. Oct. 8 – 10 (no class Friday, 10/12). Midterm Wed., Oct. 10


Week 11. Oct. 29 – 31 (Homecoming Nov. 2). Defining the New Nation  
Countryman, *American Revolution*, chap. 6

Week 12. Nov. 5 – 9. Era of the Constitution  
Holton, *Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution*, test Fri., Nov. 9

Reading TBA

Week 14. Nov. 19 (Thanksgiving Nov. 22)

Week 15. Nov. 26 – 30. Atlantic freedom quests  
Holton, *Black Americans in the Revolutionary Era*, 4-p paper based on docs. 20-38 due Nov. 30


Final exam Tue., Dec. 11, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.