

AMH 4130: Era of the American Revolution

Fall 2018

MWF 4 (10:40 – 11:30 a.m.)

Matherly Hall 108

Instructor: Prof. Jon Sensbach, Dept. of History, jsensbach@ufl.edu

Office: 233 Keene-Flint, office hours Wed. 9-10 a.m., 2-4 p.m., and by apt



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:

Edward Countryman, *The American Revolution* (New York: Hill & Wang, rev. ed., 2003).

James Kirby Martin, ed., *Ordinary Courage: The Revolutionary War Adventures of Joseph Plumb Martin* (New York: Wiley-Blackwell, 3rd ed. 2008).

Pauline Maier, *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence* (Vintage, 1998).

Woody Holton, *Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution* (New York: Hill & Wang, 2007).

Woody Holton, ed., *Black Americans in the Revolutionary Era: A Brief History with Documents* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009).

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:

Final exam	30%
Two tests	20% (10 ea)
Midterm	20%
2 4-page papers	30% (15 ea)

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>.

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/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor early in the semester.



Schedule

Week 1. Aug. 22 – 24. Introduction: Whose Revolution?

Week 2. Aug. 27-31. The Colonial World on the Eve of Revolution

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

Week 3. (Labor Day Sept. 3) Sept. 5 – 7. Reform and Resistance

Reading: Countryman, *American Revolution*, chap. 2

Week 4. Sept 10 – 14. Anatomy of Resistance

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

Week 5. Sept. 17 – 21. Toward Independence

Maier, *American Scripture*, **test Fri. Sept. 21**

Week 6. Sept. 24 – 28. Fighting the (Anti)Colonial War

Countryman, *American Revolution*, chap. 4

Week 7. Oct. 1 – 5. A People's War for Independence

Martin, *Ordinary Courage*: **5-page paper on Ordinary Courage due Fri., Oct. 5**

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

Week 9. Oct. 15 – 19. The Loyalists' War

Week 10. Oct. 22 – 26. Shifting Fortunes of Battle

Countryman, *American Revolution*, chap. 5.

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**

Week 13. (Nov. 12 Veterans' Day) Nov. 14 – 16. Hamilton v. Jefferson: Who Shall Rule at Home?

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**

Week 16. Dec. 3 – 5. Conclusions

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

