

AMH 4130: American Revolutionary Era

Fall 2016

AMH MWF 5 (11:45 - 12:35), Pugh 120

Assistant: Ryan Thompson, ryan522@ufl.edu

Instructor: Prof. Jon Sensbach, Dept. of History

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Office: 233 Keene-Flint, hours Wed. 1 - 3:30 pm and by appointment

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).

Cassandra Pybus, *Epic Journeys of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution*

and their *Global Quest for Liberty* (Boston: Beacon, 2005).

Additional articles and primary sources may be assigned from time to time.

Requirements

1. A 5-page paper (double-spaced) on the book *Ordinary Courage* (due Oct.10). The assignment will be distributed in class early in the semester.
2. Three in-class tests on the books *American Scripture* (Sept. 21), *Unruly Americans* (Nov. 12) and *Epic Journeys of Freedom* (Nov. 30).
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%
Three tests	30%
Midterm	20%
5-page paper	20%

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 as early as possible in the semester.

Schedule

Week 1. Introduction: Whose Revolution?

Week 2. Aug. 29 - Sept. 2. Colonial America

Countryman, *American Revolution*, chap. 1

Week 3. (Sept. 5 - Labor Day, no class) Sept. 7-9. Reform and Resistance

Countryman, *American Revolution*, chap. 2

Week 4. Sept. 12 (instructor out of town Sept. 14-16, no class). Anatomy of Resistance

Countryman, *American Revolution*, chap. 3

Week 5. Sept. 19-23. Toward Independence

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

Week 6. Sept. 26-28 (instructor out of town Sept. 30, no class). Fighting the (Anti) Colonial War

Countryman, *American Revolution*, chap. 4

Week 7. Oct. 3-7. A People's War for Independence

5-page paper due Oct. 7 on Joseph Martin, *Ordinary Courage*

Week 8. Oct. 10-12 (Homecoming Oct. 14). **Midterm Oct. 12.**

Week 9. Oct.17-21. The Loyalists' War

Week 10. Oct. 24-28. Shifting Fortunes of Battle

Countryman, *American Revolution*, chap. 5

Week 11. Oct. 31 - Nov. 4. Defining the New Nation

Countryman, *American Revolution*, chap. 6

Week 12. Nov. 7-11. Who Shall Rule at Home?

Holton, *Unruly Americans*, **quiz Nov. 11**

Week 13. Nov. 14-18. Hamilton or Jefferson?

Week 14. Nov. 21 (Thanksgiving week).

Week 15. Nov. 28 - Dec. 2. Exporting the Revolution

Pybus, *Epic Journeys of Freedom*, **quiz Nov. 30**

Week 16. Dec. 5-7. Conclusions

Final Exam: Group 14D, Wed., Dec. 14, 3-5 p.m.