

AMH 4130: Era of the American Revolution

Spring 2021

MWF Per. 4 (10:40 – 11:30 a.m.)

Keene-Flint 105

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

Assistant: Kristin Miller, kristinmiller@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.



In keeping with the University's Covid regulations for the Spring 2021 semester, this class will adhere to a "hy-flex" format whereby a face-to-face section will meet simultaneously with an online section. On most days, the instructor will lecture in person to the first group while zooming with the second. On other occasions, the instructor and his assistant will conduct separate class discussions with each group. This format, though far from ideal, offers the best opportunity under the hy-flex system to promote discussion and ensure that important themes and concepts are discussed. We will need to be patient with each other and work together to get through the semester safely and productively. Please don't be shy to contact the instructor with any problems or questions you might have. The University requires us to include the following statement:

Face-to-Face Section

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. Consult UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid 19 symptoms. Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work

Online Section

All lectures will be synchronous and simultaneous with the F2F section. There will be no posting of asynchronous lectures.

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Course Format

Required readings:

J. William Harris, *The Hanging of Thomas Jeremiah: A Free Black Man's Encounter with Liberty* (Yale, 2011).

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

Gary B. Nash, *The Unknown American Revolution: The Unruly Birth of Democracy and the Struggle to Create America* (Penguin, 2005).

Elizabeth Fenn, *Pox Americana: The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-1782* (Hill & Wang, 2002).

Serena Zabin, *The Boston Massacre: A Family History* (Houghton Mifflin, 2020).

Requirements

1. Four papers (12- pt., double-spaced) totaling about 19-20 pages. The assignments will be distributed in advance of each deadline.
 - a. A 3-page paper on *The Boston Massacre*, due **Fri., Feb. 5**
 - b. A 5-page paper in lieu of a midterm, due **Wed., March 3**
 - c. A 5-page paper on *Pox Americana*, due **Mon., March 22**
 - d. A 6-page final essay in lieu of a final exam, due **Fri., April 23**
2. Two short in-class tests on the assigned readings. A set of study questions will be distributed before each test.
 - a. *Hanging of Thomas Jeremiah*, **Fri., Feb. 19**
 - b. *Unruly Americans*, **Mon. April 5**
3. Class participation. There will be several discussions of the readings and other topics. Because of the difficulty of managing simultaneous discussions with both in-person and online sections, the two groups will meet separately. This arrangement is not ideal for generating free-flowing discussion, but we want to hear your ideas and encourage you to contribute verbally or (if online) by chat.
4. Attendance policy. The “hy-flex” classroom, however artificial, will require regular student attendance to work, though attendance comes with a degree of flexibility. Everyone is allowed four absences regardless of the reason; no excuse or physician’s note is needed. 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:

6-page final paper	20%
5-page midterm paper	20%
5-page paper	20%
3-page paper	15%
2 reading tests	20% (10 ea)
Class participation	5%

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. Please refrain from using devices for purposes unrelated to class.

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. Jan. 11-15. (Mon., Jan. 11 online) Introduction: Whose Revolution?

Week 2. (MLK Jan. 18) Jan. 20-22. The Colonial World on the Eve of Revolution

Reading: Nash, *Unknown American Revolution*, chap. 1

Week 3. Jan. 25-29. Reform and Resistance

Reading: Nash, *Unknown American Revolution*, chap. 2

Week 4. Feb. 1-5. Anatomy of Resistance

Reading: Nash, *Unknown American Revolution*, chap. 3,

3-page paper on Boston Massacre due Friday, Feb. 5.

Week 5. Feb. 8-12. Toward Independence

Reading: Nash, *Unknown American Revolution*, chap. 4

Week 6. Feb. 15-19. Revolutionary Paradox: Slavery and the African-American Freedom Struggle

Reading: *Hanging of Thomas Jeremiah*

In-class test on *Hanging of Thomas Jeremiah* Friday, Feb. 19.

Week 7. Feb. 22-26. A People's War for Independence

Reading: Nash, *Unknown American Revolution*, chap. 5

Week 8. March 1-3. **Midterm essay due Wed., March 3**

Week 9. March 8-12. Who Shall Rule at Home?

Reading: Nash, *Unknown American Revolution*, chap 6

Week 10. March 15-19. Shifting Fortunes of Battle

Reading: Nash, *Unknown American Revolution*, chap. 7

Week 11. March 22-26. Defining the New Nation ("recharge day" March 24, no class)

5-page paper on *Pox Americana* due Mon., Mar. 22.

Week 12. March 29 – April 2. Era of the Constitution

Reading: Nash, *Unknown American Revolution*, chap. 8

Week 13. April 5-9. WWE Cage Match: Hamilton v. Jefferson

In-class test on Holton, *Unruly Americans*, Mon. April 5

Reading: Nash, *Unknown American Revolution*, Epilogue

Week 14. April 12 – 16. The U.S. in the Age of Revolutions

Week 15. April 19-21. Conclusions



Final essay due Friday, April 23