History 334L The American Revolution and Founding of the United States, 1763-1800

Fall 2012 Unique #39290 M & W 3:30-5:00 JGB 2.218 George Forgie forgie@austin.utexas.edu Garrison 3.212 (475-7231)
M & TH 11:30-1:00

OVERVIEW. This course studies the history of the thirteen colonies and the United States during the last third of the eighteenth century, with a concentration on the origins, nature, process, and effects of the American Revolution. Specific topics include: American colonial society in the mid-eighteenth century, the French and Indian War, the collapse of the colonial system in British North America, the War for Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution, the launching of the national government, and the beginnings of American party politics.

BOOKS: The following paperbacks should be purchased:

Gordon S. Wood, The American Revolution: A History

Woody Holton, Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves, and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia

Pauline Maier, American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence

Joseph J. Ellis, Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation

<u>CLASSES</u>: Each regular class will consist of a lecture of 50-60 minutes, followed by discussion among those students who wish to stay. You may record the classes if you wish, but (unless authorized by SSD) no laptop computers or similar devices may be used or open during the lecture. The use--any use--of phones in class is not permitted. The consequence for students seen texting is yet to be determined, but it will probably fall just this side of the death penalty.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:

Wednesday, August 29 Introduction

Monday, September 3 Labor Day

Wednesday, September 5 The Rivalry of Empires

Monday, September 10 The Relevance of the "Seven Years' War" (1756-1763)

Wednesday, September 12 The Road to the Stamp Tax of 1765 Monday, September 17 The Stamp Act Crisis (1765-66)

Wednesday, September 19

Second Crisis: The Townshend Duties and Their Effects, 1767-1770

Monday, September 24 Tranquility and Then Renewed Crisis, 1770-1774

Wednesday, September 25
The Showdown at Lexington and Concord

Monday, October 1 First Examination

Wednesday, October 3 The Improvised War: 1775

Monday, October 8

A New Goal: Independence

Wednesday, October 10 The Campaign of 1776

Monday, October 15 1777 Changes Everything

Wednesday, October 17 The Articles of Confederation

Monday, October 22 Challenges to Washington's Leadership

Wednesday, October 24 The Twisting Road to Yorktown

Monday, October 29 The Treaty of Paris

Wednesday, October 31 Second Examination

Monday, November 5 The Trials of Peace Wednesday, November 7 The Constitutional Convention (I)

Monday, November 12 The Constitutional Convention (II)

Wednesday, November 14 The Constitutional Convention (III)

Monday, November 19 The Constitutional Convention (Concluded)

Wednesday, November 21 TBA

Monday, November 26 Ratification?

Wednesday, November 28 The New Government Begins

Monday, December 3
The Development of Political Parties

Wednesday, December 5
Was the American Revolution a Revolution?

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING: In addition to the final examination (which will be comprehensive) on Friday, December 14, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., there will be two midterm exams--on Monday, October 1, and Wednesday, October 31, at the class period. Each of the midterms will count 25% of the course grade. The final examination will count 50% of the course grade. Exams, designed to assess your command of course material and your ability to think critically and write clearly, will consist of short-answer and essay questions on the material from the classes and readings (including any handouts that may come your way from the instructor). Enrollment in this course constitutes a commitment on your part to be present at all of these examinations. Exams will not be given ahead of schedule, nor will any make-ups be given, for any reason.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignment for the first exam, Monday, October 1:

- (1) Gordon S. Wood, The American Revolution: A History, to page 52.
- (2) Woody Holton, Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves, and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia (all)

Assignment for the second exam, Wednesday, October 31:

- (1) Gordon S. Wood, *The American Revolution: A History*, pp. 52-109
- (2) Pauline Maier, American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence (all)

Assignment for the final exam, Friday, December 14:

- (1) ALL OF THE ABOVE, plus
- (2) Gordon S. Wood, The American Revolution: A History, pp. 113-166.
- (3) Joseph J. Ellis, Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation (all)

COURSE GRADING SCALE:

93-100%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	В
80-82%	В-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-
Below 60%	F

TEACHING ASSISTANT:

John Vurpillat < john.vurpillat@utexas.edu>

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd

STATEMENT FROM THE CENTER FOR THE CORE CURRICULUM:

"This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization."