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

Fall 2011
Unique #39290
M & W 3:30-5:00
JGB 2.218

George Forgie
forgie@mail.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:
Pauline Maier, American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence
Joseph J. Ellis, Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation
Primary Source Documents Nos. 1-9 (Available on Blackboard)

CLASSES: 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 24
Introduction

Monday, August 29
The Rivalry of Empires

Wednesday, August 31
The Relevance of the "Seven Years' War" (1756-1763)

Monday, September 5
Labor Day

Wednesday, September 7
The Road to the Stamp Tax of 1765
Monday, September 12
The Stamp Act Crisis (1765-66)

Wednesday, September 14
Second Crisis: The Townshend Duties and Their Effects, 1767-1770

Monday, September 19
Tranquility and Then Renewed Crisis, 1770-1774

Wednesday, September 21
The Showdown at Lexington and Concord

Monday, September 26
First Examination

Wednesday, September 28
The Improvised War: 1775

Monday, October 3
A New Goal: Independence

Wednesday, October 5
The Campaign of 1776

Monday, October 10
1777 Changes Everything

Wednesday, October 12
The Articles of Confederation

Monday, October 17
Challenges to Washington’s Leadership

Wednesday, October 19
The Twisting Road to Yorktown

Monday, October 24
The Treaty of Paris

Wednesday, October 26
Second Examination

Monday, October 31
The Trials of Peace
Wednesday, November 2
The Constitutional Convention (I)

Monday, November 7
The Constitutional Convention (II)

Wednesday, November 9
The Constitutional Convention (III)

Monday, November 14
The Constitutional Convention (Concluded)

Wednesday, November 16
Ratification?

Monday, November 21
The New Government Begins

Wednesday, November 23
TBA

Monday, November 26
The Development of Political Parties

Wednesday, November 30
Was the American Revolution a Revolution?

DISCUSSION SECTION: Each week our TA will lead a discussion section designed to help students deepen their understanding of the course material and develop the kinds of learning skills that lead to higher grades on exams. The discussion will be centered on the assigned readings, the primary source documents in particular. Students will learn specific skills, including how to read more efficiently, how to identify what is important in readings and lectures, how to integrate reading and lecture information, and how to turn this knowledge into well-constructed exam essays. Though this section is voluntary, statistical evidence suggests a strong correlation between section participation and higher grades in courses like this. The TA will hold two meetings of the same discussion each week. Times and places for the discussion will be announced in lecture and via email on Monday each week.

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING: In addition to the final examination (which will be comprehensive) on Friday, December 9 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., there will be two midterm exams--on Monday, September 26, and Wednesday, October 26, 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. The exams 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.

**COURSE GRADING SCALE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

Assignment for the first exam, Monday, September 27:
3. Primary Source Documents Nos. 1-3

Assignment for the second exam, Wednesday, October 27:
2. Pauline Maier, *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence* (all)
3. Primary Source Documents Nos. 4-6

Assignment for the final exam, Friday, December 9:
1. ALL OF THE ABOVE, plus
3. Joseph J. Ellis, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* (all)
4. Primary Source Documents Nos. 7-9

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:**
John Vurpillat
Email: john.vurpillat@mail.utexas.edu
Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-3:30pm SAC, First Floor Tables, or by appointment

**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