

History 1710
Office Hours: Wed. 2:00-4:00

Spring Semester II 2008
Prof. G.S. Wood

The American Revolution

There will be two lectures a week and a section meeting on most weeks of the term. All readings are on reserve in the Library; those marked with an * are also available in the bookstore. Two short papers, an hour test, and the final exam are required. Those who wish may substitute for the second short paper a research paper (c. 20-25 pp.) for which they will receive additional appropriate credit. The topic of the research paper must be worked out in consultation with Prof. Wood or a teaching assistant. The research paper will be due on April 28 at the History Department, 142 Angell St., by 4:00 p.m.

TAs in the course are Erik Anderson, William Brucher, and Christopher Lamberti. Sections will be held on eight weeks of the term. Attendance at the section meetings is required, and section participation will be graded. Only one unexcused absence from the section meetings will be allowed. More than two unexcused absences from the section meetings will result in a NC for the course.

Graduate students will be required to take only the mid-term and final exams.

Gordon S. Wood, *The American Revolution: A History, is available at the bookstore for those students who would like a brief summary of the period covered by the course.

1. Feb. 7-8--The Coming of the Revolution (section meetings)

*Theodore Draper, A Struggle for Power.

*Jack P. Greene, ed., Colonies to Nation, 1763-1789, intro. and doc. nos. 1-4, 6, 7, 12, 14-17, 19, 20.

Sir Lewis Namier, "King George III: A Study of Personality," in Crossroads of Power or in Personalities and Power.

Jere Daniell, Experiment in Republicanism, chs. 1-2.

2. Feb. 14-15--The Ideology of Revolution (section meetings)

*Bernard Bailyn, The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution, chs. 1-5.

*Greene, ed., Colonies to Nation, doc. nos. 5, 8, 9-11, 13, 18, 21-28, 30, 32.

*William Knox, The Controversy Between Great Britain and Her Colonies Reviewed (1769), ed. S.E. Morison, Old South Leaflet No. 210.

G.S. Wood, "Conspiracy and the Paranoid Style: Causality and Deceit in the Eighteenth Century," William and Mary Quarterly, 3d Ser., XXXIX (1982).

3. Feb. 21--FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE (5-6 pp.) (no section meetings)

4. Feb. 28-29--The Old Order (section meetings)

*Rhys Isaac, The Transformation of Virginia, intro. and chs. 1-6.

*Robert Gross, The Minutemen and Their World, chs. 1-4.

5. March 6-7--The Revolution (section meetings)

*Isaac, Transformation of Virginia, chs. 7-8, 11-12.

*Gross, Minutemen and Their World, chs. 5-7.

*Greene, ed., Colonies to Nation, doc. nos. 29, 31.

6. March 13--HOUR TEST (no section meetings)

7. March 20-21--The Revolution and Democracy (section meetings)

*Bailyn, Ideological Origins, ch. 6.

*Greene, ed., Colonies to Nation, doc. no. 46.

Linda K. Kerber "'History Can Do It No Justice,'" in Ronald Hoffman and Peter J. Albert, eds., Women in the Age of the American Revolution, pp. 3-42.

8. March 22-30--Spring Break

9. April 3-4--Republicanism (section meetings)

*Gordon S. Wood, The Creation of the American Republic, 1776-1787, chs. 2-9.

*Greene, ed., Colonies to Nation, doc. nos. 33-41.

Perry Miller, "From Covenant to Revival," in his Nature's Nation, pp. 90-120.

R.R. Palmer, The Age of the Democratic Revolution: The Challenge, ch. 9.

10. April 10--SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE (5-6 pp). (no section meetings)

For those writing the longer research paper a five pp. prospectus will be due.

11. April 17-18--The Critical Period (section meetings)

*Wood, Creation of the American Republic, chs. 10-11.

*Greene, ed., Colonies to Nation, doc. nos. 47-55.

Merrill Jensen, New Nation, chs. 2-20; or Richard B. Morris, The Forging of the Union, 1781-1789, chs. 2-10.

12. April 24-25--The Formation of the Federal Constitution (section meetings).

*Wood, Creation of the American Republic, chs. 12-15.

*Greene, ed., Colonies to Nation, doc. Nos. 56-62.

Gordon S. Wood, ed., The Confederation and the Constitution.
Morris, Forging of the Union, chs. 11-12.

13. April 28--OPTIONAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE (15-20 pp.).

14. May 7, 9:00 a.m.---FINAL EXAM