

History 3730 – New American Nation
Spring 2009 – Syllabus
MWF – 2:30 – 3:20 PM, M 304

“Who shall write the history of the American Revolution? Who can write it? Who will ever be able to write it?” - John Adams to Thomas Jefferson, July 15, 1815.

“Nobody, except merely its external facts...The life and soul of history must be forever unknown.” – Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, August 10, 1815.

This course covers the period of American History from 1763 to 1800, with a particular emphasis upon the American Revolution. As we’ll see, Jefferson was incorrect – at least judging by the wealth of interest and publications about the American Revolution.

Required Course Texts – all available at the bookstore and at various online vendors. (They are also on reserve at the library.)

1. Colin G. Calloway, *The Scratch of a Pen, 1763 and the Transformation of North America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).
2. Ray Raphael, *A People’s History of the American Revolution* (New York: Harper Perennial, 2002)
3. Laurel Ulrich, *A Midwife’s Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812* (New York: Vintage, 1991).
4. Gordon S. Wood, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution* (New York, Vintage Books, 1991).
5. Alfred Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party* (Memory and the American Revolution (Boston: Beacon Press, 2000).

*****In addition, there will be a variety of journal articles and primary source materials, to be distributed later in the semester. Some examples of the latter include the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution (and the Bill of Rights), the Sedition Acts, among others. You will not have to “purchase” these as they will be either provided by the instructor or will be available on-line at websites that I will provide to you.**

Contact Information

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Office Hours: MW 10:30-11:30 or by appointment.
Office Location: Old Main 321-L,
Phone: 797-3791

**Email is the easiest, quickest and best way to contact me. I will try my best to respond within 24 hours.

Students with Disabilities

“In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, reasonable accommodation will be provided for qualified students with disabilities. Please meet with me during the first week of class to make arrangements. Alternative format print materials (large print, audio, CD, or braille) will be available through the Disability Resource Center.” <http://www.usu.edu/policies/pdf/Accmdtns-for-Disabled.pdf>

The DRC is located at University Inn 101, and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 pm., M-F; 797-2444. <http://www.usu.edu/drc/>.

Attendance & Participation

Whether or not you decide to attend class is your decision, I do not take attendance. However, missing class will have negative repercussions for you. First, this class is *overwhelmingly discussion driven*. If you're not here – how can you participate? By not attending and participating you forfeit all those points and earn absolutely zero. Second, more broadly, missing class (and, say, depending on someone else to take notes for you) may produce adverse results. (What if those notes are terrible?) And, since the papers are all based on the readings and our discussions of those readings, missing class will undoubtedly lower your chances of doing well. Regardless, should you decide to attend there are some basic guidelines.

In-Class Behavior

I will do everything in my power to maintain a supportive and respectful learning environment. To ensure this, please raise your hand and wait to be called on before you speak. Students are asked not to interrupt each other, to respect others' opinions, and maintain professionalism at all times. There will be times when you have strong disagreements with each other. That is to be expected. However, you must respectfully disagree. In addition, to facilitate a positive learning/discussion environment please shut off any cell phones or any other electronic devices before coming to class. If you arrive late, please come in quietly and take a seat in the back. Activities which interfere with other students' learning, such as sleeping, talking with your friends, using your cell-phone, etc., during class are disrespectful and will result in a grade penalty.

Grades

Participation - 30%

First Paper: Calloway – 15%

Second Paper: Revolutions (Wood and Raphael) – 25%

Third Paper: Shoemaker - 15%

Fourth Paper: Mid-Wife – 15%

Papers

You will write four papers based on the assigned readings and discussions. More details on these will be provided over the course of the semester. In addition, I may assign in-class writings based on our readings or other related materials.

Academic Honesty

from the University Academic Integrity – “The Honor System”
available at <http://www.usu.edu/policies/pdf/Acad-Integrity.pdf>

Academic Honesty

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to establish the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students.

The Honor Pledge. To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge:

“I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity.”

Infractions

Acts of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

1. **Cheating. (Details on-line)**
2. **Falsification.** Altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.
3. **Plagiarism.** ***Representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials. **USU operates by the honor system.**

More on Plagiarism

Plagiarism, which is the presenting of other people’s work (published or unpublished), including anything taken from the Internet, as your own work (in other words, without the proper citation) will not be tolerated. There are very serious repercussions for plagiarism. Plagiarized papers will receive a failing grade, risk failing the entire course, and, in accordance with University policy, you will be reported to the Dean’s office. Further details are available at the website mentioned above. If you have questions about the proper use of sources, please feel free to speak with me.

One Last Thing

All the assignments, as well as the schedule of when things are due, are subject to change but if this happens, I will give you advance notice.