

History 631
Era of the American Revolution
Fall 2012

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Office: Robinson B, Room 371B

Office hours: Thursdays, 10:00-noon and by appointment

Required Books:

Fred Anderson, *The War that Made America: A Short History of the French and Indian War*

Brendan J. McConville, *The King's Three Faces: The Rise and Fall of Royal America, 1688-1776*

John Philip Reid, *Constitutional History of the American Revolution* (abridged ed.)

T. H. Breen, *Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped the American Revolution*

Nicole Eustace, *Passion is the Gale: Emotion, Power, and the Coming of the American Revolution*

Barbara Clark Smith, *The Freedoms We Lost: Consent and Resistance in Revolutionary America*

Sylvia Frey, *Water From the Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age*

Susan Klepp, *Revolutionary Conceptions: Women, Fertility, & Family Limitation in America, 1760-1820*

Maya Jasanoff, *Liberty's Exiles: The Loss of America and the Remaking of the British Empire*

Benjamin Irvin, *Clothed in the Robes of Sovereignty: The Confederation Congress and the People Out of Doors*

Jack N. Rakove, *Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution*

Max Edling, *A Revolution in Favor of Government: The Origins of the Constitution and the Making of the American State*

DATE

TOPIC and READINGS

Aug. 29

Many Paths to Revolution/Many American Revolutions

Sept. 5

An Anglo-American Empire in a Native American World

Reading: Fred Anderson, *The War that Made America: A Short History of the French and Indian War*

Sept. 12

Identity and Empire

Reading: Brendan J. McConville, *The King's Three Faces: The Rise and Fall of Royal America, 1688-1776*,

- Sept. 19** **A Revolution from the Top Down?**
 Reading: Reid, *Constitutional History of the American Revolution*; Eric Nelson, "Patriot Royalism: The Stuart Monarchy in American Political Thought, 1769-75," *William & Mary Quarterly* 68 (Oct. 2011), 533-572.
- Sept. 26** **Building a Resistance Movement**
 Reading: T. H. Breen, *Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped the American Revolution*
- Oct. 3** **Mobilizing Sentiment/Declaring Independence**
 Reading: Nicole Eustace, *Passion is the Gale: Emotion, Power, and the Coming of the American Revolution*; Draft of the Declaration of Independence (handout)
- Oct. 10** **Grassroots Mobilization**
 Reading: Barbara Clark Smith, *The Freedoms We Lost: Consent and Resistance in Revolutionary America*; David Armitage, "The Declaration of Independence and International Law," *William & Mary Quarterly* 59 (2002), 39-64;
- Oct. 17** **Slavery and the Revolution**
 Reading: Sylvia Frey, *Water From the Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age*; Edmund S. Morgan, "Slavery and Freedom: The American Paradox," *Journal of American History* 59 (June 1972), 5-29 (JSTOR).
- Oct. 24** **Women in Revolutionary America**
 Reading: Susan Klepp, *Revolutionary Conceptions: Women, Fertility, & Family Limitation in America, 1760-1820*; Linda Kerber, "The Republican Mother," *American Quarterly* 28 (Summer 1976), 187-205 (JSTOR); Rosemarie Zagarri, "The Rights of Man and Woman in Post-Revolutionary America," *William & Mary Quarterly* 55 (April 1998), 203-230 (JSTOR).
- Oct. 31** **The Fate of Loyalists**
 Reading: Maya Jasanoff, *Liberty's Exiles: The Loss of America and the Remaking of the British Empire*
- Nov. 7** **Creating a Union**
 Reading: Benjamin Irvin, *Clothed in the Robes of Sovereignty: The Confederation Congress and the People Out of Doors*; R. R. Palmer, "The People as Constituent Power" (handout)
- Nov. 14** **Writing and Ratifying the U.S. Constitution**
 Reading: Jack N. Rakove, *Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution*

Nov. 28

Establishing a National Government

Reading: Max Edling, *A Revolution in Favor of Government: The Origins of the Constitution and the Making of the American State*

Dec. 5

Revolutionary Directions

Reading: Edward Countryman, "Indians, the Colonial Order, and the Social Significance of the American Revolution," *William & Mary Quarterly* 53, (April 1996), 342-362; Jack P. Greene, "Colonial History and National History: Reflections on a Continuing Problem," *William & Mary Quarterly* 64 (Apr. 2007), 235–50; Staughton Lynd and David Waldstreicher, "Free Trade, Sovereignty, and Slavery: Toward an Economic Interpretation of American Independence," *William & Mary Quarterly* 68 (Oct. 2011), 597-630--all available on JSTOR.

FINAL PAPER DUE BY 7:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12

Grading:

Participation*	20%
Two 5-page book reviews** 15% x 2=	30%
One 7-page comparative review***	20%
Final review essay (12 pages)	30%

***PARTICIPATION** in class discussions is essential in a graduate-level seminar. I assign a participation grade to each student after each class. I will hand out mid-term participation grades on Oct. 10. If you have an issue with talking in a group, please speak with me and we can arrange an alternative method of assessment. Participation grades are based on the following criteria, appearing approximately in order of importance:

Intellectual insight expressed in spoken remarks
Economy and precision of spoken comments
Frequency of participation

IN OTHER WORDS, frequent ill-considered remarks do not improve your grade more than an occasional thoughtful, well-phrased contribution. But everyone is expected to do the reading and participate in every class discussion.

****NOTE ON BOOK REVIEWS:** Book reviews are not simply summaries of the book's contents; they are analytical essays. A good book review highlights the work's main thesis, or major arguments, and discusses the way the historian proves the thesis. The review should pay attention to the work's major sources and methodology (social history, cultural history, political history, intellectual history) and should assess the strengths and weaknesses of the author's argument. The conclusion of the review should address this question: How does this work change my understanding of the American Revolution? **IT IS ADVISED THAT STUDENTS NOT CONSULT PUBLISHED**

REVIEWS OF THE BOOK. The professor periodically checks student reviews against published reviews so as to preclude the possibility of plagiarism.

*****COMPARATIVE BOOK REVIEWS** should also highlight the major arguments of each work under consideration. After briefly establishing the basic arguments, the author should then focus on points of comparison and contrast between the works. Such points can include substantive agreements/disagreements on the meaning of the American Revolution and/or similarities/differences in two historians' methods/approaches. After comparing the strengths and weaknesses of each work relative to the other, the author should come to a conclusion about the contribution of the works in elucidating our understanding of the American Revolution.

Pairings for Comparative Reviews:

Breen and Smith

McConville and Irvin

Frey and Klepp

Rakove and Edling

DROP DEADLINES

The last day to drop a class without tuition liability is Sept. 4. If you drop by Sept. 18, there is a 33% tuition penalty. THE FINAL DROP DATE is Sept. 28, when there is a 67% tuition liability.

DISABILITIES

Students who require academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Center at (703) 993-2474 who will then be in touch with me.

ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ABIDE BY THE UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE. Violations will be referred to the Honor Board for action.