

## HS 346.01: Revolutionary America Spring 2017

Professor: Matt Mulcahy  
309 Humanities  
410-617-2019  
mmulcahy@loyola.edu  
Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4, Friday 1-3, and by appt.

**Overview:** The course explores the social, economic, and political causes and consequences of the American Revolution. The course is divided into roughly three parts. Part One investigates the events that led thirteen mainland colonies to declare independence in 1776 (there were other colonies in British America that did not, and we will explore why not). Part Two analyzes the war itself and the emergence of new forms of government during and after the war. Part Three looks at social and political developments in the post-war period, including the adoption of the U.S. Constitution, and briefly explores how the Revolution was remembered in the nineteenth century (and today).

Material will be outlined in traditional lectures, but this class also involves a good bit of discussion. *There is a reading assignment for every class*, and in each class we will discuss the ideas and arguments in the books, articles, and documents. As a result, preparation (having both read and thought about the materials) and participation are essential. Ideally you will finish the semester with knowledge of several important themes and issues concerning the American Revolution, with a sense of how historians go about the task of studying and writing history, and with an increased ability to read and analyze materials critically and to express your ideas in writing that is both clear and convincing. Such skills obviously connect to Loyola's learning aims of developing intellectual excellence, critical understanding, and *eloquentia perfecta*.

**Readings:** The required books listed below are all available in the bookstore. They are also on reserve in the library (library-use only). In addition, there are several articles/documents posted on Moodle, and I may from time to time add a document or short reading. If you miss a class, contact me or a classmate so you can stay on top of the readings. *You will be held responsible for all material covered in the readings.*

Edward Countryman, *The American Revolution: Second Edition* (New York, 2003)  
Andrew O'Shaughnessy, *An Empire Divided: The American Revolution and the British Caribbean* (Philadelphia, 2000)  
James Martin and Mark Lender, *A Respectable Army: The Military Origins of the Republic*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Wheeling, IL, 2006)  
Alfred Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party* (Boston, 1999)

**Assignments:** There are three major assignments, a 12--page research paper, a midterm exam, and a final exam. The in-class midterm is worth 20%. The take-home final exam is worth 20% (I reserve the right to change this to an in-class exam, but it will remain 20% of the grade). A short narrative summary and bibliography (2 pages) in support of the research paper is worth 3%; the intro/mobilization essay (3-5 pages; part of the larger research paper) is worth 20%, and the final

version of the paper is worth 30%. Participation is worth 7% and includes several unannounced quizzes on the readings and an argument summary assignment that all students must complete.

**Late Assignments and Incompletes:** Assignments are due in class on the assigned dates. Papers handed in after that time (including after class) will be docked 1/3 a grade for each day late. If you think you need more time, you must talk to me at least 24 hours before the assignment is due. I am happy to grant extensions when you need them (except for the final paper date), but you must take responsibility and ask for one. Incompletes will be granted only under the most extreme circumstances and must be cleared with me in advance. *All major assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.*

**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:** I assume that you will conduct yourselves according to the Honor Code. Policies on plagiarism and academic dishonesty are outlined on the Honor Council's website. They include, most notably, the failure to quote or cite material properly from readings and documents. *If caught plagiarizing, you should expect to fail the course.* If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please consult a standard style manual or talk to me. Ignorance is not excuse.

## Reading Schedule

Jan. 17– Introduction and Overview

Jan. 19 – British America circa 1750 (Countryman, preface, 3-33)

Jan. 24 – British America circa 1750 (Jack Greene, “An Uneasy Connection,” on Moodle).  
**Argument summary due.**

Jan. 26 – *Library Research Day – Meet at the Library* (Dunn, “Revolution Remembered”)

Jan. 31 – The Seven Years War (Anderson, “There is No Spare Here of the Whip,”  
Draper, “Struggle for Power,”)

Feb. 2 – The Aftermath of War: Land and Tax Policies (Countryman, 34-65; Stamp Act Documents on Moodle – Whately, Dulany, Congress)

### Feb. 6 – Narrative Summary and Bibliography Due

Feb. 7 – The Stamp Act Crisis (Stamp Act Documents: Pitt/Grenville, and Franklin)

Feb. 9 – Townshend Acts and Colonial Resistance (Dickinson “Letters from A Pennsylvania Farmer” on Moodle; Countryman, 67-97)

Feb. 14 – Mounting Tensions (Young, *Shoemaker and the Tea Party*, 1-70)

Feb. 16 – Common Sense (“Common Sense” on Moodle)

Feb. 21 – Declaring Independence (Countryman, 98-120; Declaration of Independence in  
“Governing Documents,” Moodle)

### Feb. 23 – Midterm Exam

Feb. 28 – An Empire Divided (O’Shaughnessy, *An Empire Divided*, preface-77)

March 2 – An Empire Divided (O’Shaughnessy, *An Empire Divided*, 81-108, 126-159)

**Mar. 7 – SPRING BREAK**

**Mar. 9 – SPRING BREAK**

Mar. 14 – Fighting the War (Martin/Lender, *Respectable Army*, 1-63)

Mar. 16 – Fighting the War (Martin/Lender, *Respectable Army*, 64-99)

**Mar. 17– Intro/Mobilization Paper due by noon in my office**

Mar. 21 – War and Society (Martin/Lender, *Respectable Army*, 100-136)

Mar. 23 – The Southern War (Martin/Lender, *Respectable Army*, 137-166; Shy, “Southern Strategy)

Mar. 29 – Roads to Yorktown (Martin/Lender *Respectable Army*, 166-211, O’Shaughnessy, *An Empire Divided*, 206 – 248)

Mar. 31 – The Critical Period (Countryman, 121-166)

Apr. 4 – The Constitution (US Constitution, “Governing Documents”; Countryman, 167-182)

Apr. 6 – Federalists and Anti-Federalists (Countryman, 183-203, Federalist/Anti-Federalist Papers, Moodle)

Apr. 11 – *Writing Workshop (Bring a Complete Draft of Paper to class).*

**Apr. 13 – EASTER BREAK**

Apr. 18 – Social Impact of the Revolution: Slavery (Countryman, 204-236)

**Apr. 19 – BIOGRAPHY PAPERS DUE – NOON in my office**

Apr. 20 – Social Impact of the Revolution: Women, Loyalists, and Native Americans (Countryman, 204-236; John and Abigail Adams Letters)

Apr. 25 – Historical Memory of the Revolution (Young, *Shoemaker and the Tea Party*, 87-165).

Apr. 27 – Historical Memory of the Revolution and Review (Young, *Shoemaker and the Tea Party*, 166-207)

**Take Home Final Exam due no later than NOON on MONDAY, MAY 8.**



**Information Sheet**

Name:

Year:

Major:

Hometown:

Phone Number

Reason for taking this class:

Recommendation: What should I be reading, listening to, or watching?