REQUIREMENTS:

(1) Class attendance and participation in discussions, which will focus upon the readings assigned for the week.

(2) A research paper of about 15 pages in length. Papers should answer a carefully posed historical question and be based in good part upon primary sources, that is, documents that for most topics will be from the eighteenth century. The papers can focus upon any aspect of the Revolution. All topics must be approved on or before Thursday, October 30. The final papers must include footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography composed in a correct and comprehensible form. They are due on Friday, December 5, but can be turned in without penalty up through the last meeting of the class on Tuesday, December 9.

(3) A midterm in-class examination on October 16 and a scheduled final examination.

ASSIGNED BOOKS:


READING SCHEDULE:
September 4. Introduction and Historiography.

   Anderson, A People's Army, vii-xi, 3-164, 185-210, 222-23.

   Wood, American Revolution, 27-44.
   (Also Maier, 27-48)

   For September 23: Hopkins, "Essay on Trade," 1764, in "Readings;" Hyneman
   and Lutz, American Political Writings, I: 45-61 (Hopkins, late 1764), 67-87 (Bland,
   1766), 97-108 (Downer, 1768); Morison, Sources and Documents, 14-54 (includes
   Jenyns, 1765; Dulany, 1765; Dickinson, 1767-68). (NOTE: It's a good idea to pile these
   books in front of you and read the pamphlets in chronological order. Or you might start
   with Morison, which includes the pamphlets that were most influential and so lay out the
   basic positions of the two sides as they stood in 1765 and 1768. How did the American
   argument shift between Dulany and Dickinson? Then, when you read the other
   pamphlets, ask what changes or differences they involve. If you can identify where an
   author is saying what everyone is saying and focus instead on what's new, and on how the
   American position is developing--- the British didn't change much---, you'll be reading
   efficiently and intelligently. It might take some practice to get the hang of that. In
   whatever order you read the pamphlets, however, be sure to take notes on each
   immediately after finishing it or all of them will quickly melt together in your mind.)
   For September 25: Accounts of the Stamp Act uprisings, the Sons of Liberty, and
   the Virginia Association of 1770 in "Readings."

September 30-October 2. From Resistance to Revolution, 1770-1776.
   Wood, American Revolution, 47-62.
   Maier, From Resistance to Revolution, 161-296.
   Jefferson, "Summary View" (1774), in "Readings."
   Morison, Sources and Documents, 100-115 (Wilson, 1774), 116-25, 137-48.
   Paine, Common Sense.
   (The discussion will focus on the primary sources, i.e. the last three items on the assigned
   readings. What distinguishes Wilson and Jefferson from Dickinson’s “Farmer’s
   Letters”? Is Paine’s Common Sense a logical outgrowth of the line of argument
   American pamphlets had taken, so something else altogether? How exactly did Paine
   justify Independence? Was he convincing? Was he moving? More so than others?
   Why?)
October 7-9. The Declaration of Independence; Loyalism.

Especially for October 7: The state and local declarations of independence; the Jefferson/committee draft of the Declaration of Independence with Congress’s editings, and background documents (the British Declaration of Rights of 1688/89, Jefferson's draft preamble for the Virginia constitution, which he wrote before drafting the Declaration, and the early draft of the Virginia Declaration of Rights (by George Mason) that appeared in the Pennsylvania Gazette, June 12, 1776) in "Readings." (You might also take a look at Morison’s version of the preamble to the Virginia constitution on p. 151 of Sources and Documents and see if you notice anything odd.)

Especially for October 9: Galloway, 1775; Chalmers, 1776, and Mary Beth Norton, "The Loyalist Critique of the Revolution,” 1972, in "Readings."

October 14. Loyalism, continued, and the British View; Review.


Wood, American Revolution, 74-88.

Shy, A People Numerous and Armed, chapters 4, 6-8, 10, (roughly pages 81-115, 133-92, 213-44).

October 28-30. The Revolutionary War, continued; the First State Constitutions.


Morison, Sources and Documents, 148-56, 162-77 (includes the first state constitutions of Virginia and Pennsylvania, both 1776).

The New York constitution of 1777 and the Massachusetts constitution of 1780, in "Readings."

Hyneman and Lutz, American Political Writing, I: 321-27 (the Alarm, 1776), 328-39 (Braxton, 1776), 340-67 (Demophilus, 1776), 401-09 (John Adams, 1776), 455-79 (Grievances of Berkshire County, Mass., 1778), 480-522 (Essex Result, 1778).

(NOTE: Pay particular attention to the Adams pamphlet. How was his proposal different from that of Thomas Paine in Common Sense?)

November 4-6. The First State Constitutions, continued; the Confederation and the 1780s.

Wood, American Revolution, 70-74, 91-150.

Morison, Sources and Documents, 178-86, 203-33.

Hyneman and Lutz, American Political Writing, I: 631-37, Virginia Memorial and Remonstrance, 1785.

November 11: Veteran's Day; Holiday.

November 13. The Confederation and the 1780s, continued.

James Madison's "Vices of the System," in "Readings."

Bruce W. Bugbee, Genesis of American Patent and Copyright Law (Washington, D.C., 1967), pp. 84-131, in “Readings.” (NOTE: There’s no reason for you to master the
details of American copyright law in the 1780s, but this material is very helpful in
“getting a handle” on what was going on in the United States in the aftermath of
Independence. Most U.S. history textbooks mention at most the federal copyright law of
1790, but clearly that statute emerged from a flurry of earlier activity within the states.
Why, all of a sudden in the late 1780s, were American legislators so open to granting
copyrights and patents to authors and inventors? What kinds of devices were being
patented? What do you suppose drove people to become so inventive? Most of the
proposed devices came to nothing, but notice the name of Oliver Evans, a particularly
prolific inventor who designed and built a grist mill that is generally considered the first
fully automated American manufacturing operation.)

Wood, American Revolution, 151-58
Morison, 233-304, and the New Jersey Plan, which Morison does not specifically
include in his excerpts from the convention's debates, in "Readings."

Begin reading The Federalist Papers, which are listed for next week.

November 25. Ratification.

Criticisms of the Constitution by R.H. Lee and George Mason, October 6 and 7,
1787, in "Readings."

The "Federalist Papers" nos. 9 and 10, on the idea of an extended republic; 30 and
31 on taxation; 39, 45, and 46 on federalism; 47 and 51 on separation of powers; 53-56
and 62 on representation and the Senate; 78 on judicial review, and 84 on a bill of rights,

Morison, Sources and Documents, 305-62 (Virginia convention debates).

Constitutional amendments proposed by the ratifying conventions of
Massachusetts (February 6, 1789) and Virginia (June 27, 1788) in "Readings." (Note that
these, as well as the amendments proposed by South Carolina (May 23, 1788), New
Hampshire (June 21, 1788), and New York (July 26, 1788), and several other documents
pertaining to the Constitution are available on the web at Yale Law School's Avalon
Project. The amendments proposed by Massachusetts are, for example, at
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/const/ratma.htm

Kenyon, "Men of Little Faith," the William and Mary Quarterly, 3d Ser., XII
(1955), 3-43, in "Readings" (also available on the web through JStor, which can be
accessed through the MIT library site).

Irving Brant, "Madison: On the Separation of Church and State," the William and
Mary Quarterly, 3d Series, III (1951), 3-24, in "Readings" (and also available through
JStor).

Selections from the Adams correspondence and the writings of Judith Sargent
Murray, and Jefferson, "Query XIV," from his Notes on the State of Virginia (written in
1781 and published in 1785), in "Readings."

December 9. Conclusion, continued: Rights.

James Madison’s proposal for a federal Bill of Rights as presented to the House of Representatives on June 8, 1789, and the set of amendments Congress finally sent to the states for ratification in September 1789, also in “Readings.” The states failed to approve the first two of Congress’s proposed amendments by 1791. Did the rest really constitute a “bill of rights”? Do you think the Antifederalists would have been satisfied?