Instructor: Prof. Pauline Maier

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 to a considerable extent 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, but must go beyond work done in class. All topics must be approved on or before Tuesday, April 12. The final papers must include footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography composed in a correct and comprehensible form. They are due on Friday, May 6, but will be accepted without penalty up through the last meeting of the class on Thursday, May 12.

(4) A midterm in-class examination on March 17 and a scheduled final examination.

ASSIGNED BOOKS:


READING SCHEDULE:


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

February 8-10. Background, continued, and Ideology.
February 15-17. Overview of the Independence Movement; American and British Arguments, 1764-1770.


NOTE: It's a good idea read the pamphlets in chronological order. How did the American argument shift between the two Hopkins pamphlets, and between Dulany and Dickinson? 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. Be sure to take notes on each pamphlet immediately after finishing it or all of them will quickly melt together in your mind.

*February 22: Monday schedule.*


Accounts of the Stamp Act uprisings, the Sons of Liberty, and the Virginia Association of 1770 in "Readings."

March 1-3. From Resistance to Revolution, 1770-1776.


Jefferson, "Summary View" (1774), and Paine’s “Common Sense,” in Jensen, *Tracts*, 256-76, 400-446.


(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, or something else altogether? How exactly did Paine justify Independence? Was he convincing? Was he moving? More so than others? Why?)
March 8-10. Declarations of Independence; Loyalism.

Especially for March 8: American state and local resolutions on independence; the English Declaration of Rights (1789); Jefferson's draft preamble for the Virginia constitution of 1776 (May-June 1776); an early draft of the Virginia Declaration of Rights (by George Mason) that appeared in the Pennsylvania Gazette, June 12, 1776; the Jefferson/committee draft of the Declaration of Independence with Congress’s editings, in “Readings.” The main focus of discussion will be the draft Declaration with Congress’s editings. What did Congress do, and why? (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.)


March 15. The British View; Review.

Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy, “’If Others Will Not Be Active, I Must Drive’: George III and the American Revolution,” Early American Studies, Vol. II (Spring 2004), 1-46, in “Readings.”

March 17. Midterm Examination.

March 21 and 25: Spring Vacation.


Wood, American Revolution, 74-88.

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

April 5-7. The First State Constitutions.


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

John Adams, “Thoughts on Government” (1776), in “Readings.”

April 11-13. The Confederation and the 1780s.

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

Morison, Sources and Documents, 178-86, 203-06, 208-33.

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, I believe, 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.)

April 19.  Patriots’ Day, recalling the Battles at Lexington and Concord; Holiday

   Reading holiday; work on your papers.  (But don’t skip class.)

   Morison, Sources and Documents, 233-304.
   New Jersey Plan (which is strangely missing in Morison), and Federalist Paper No. 10 in "Readings.

May 3-5.  Ratification.
   Morison, Sources and Documents, 305-62.
   George Mason’s Objections to the Constitution (October 7, 1787); the Massachusetts (Feb. 6-7, 1788), Virginia (June 26-27, 1788), and New York (July 26, 1788) ratification resolutions.
   AND, to jump ahead a bit and consider whether the Antifederalists got what they wanted, read 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”?)

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