

## History 100.02 The United States in the Age of Transatlantic Revolution

Fall 2009

**Prof. Sarah J. Purcell**

MWF 8:00-8:50

ARH 102

Office: Jesse Macy House (1205 Park St.) #201 Phone: 269-3091

Email: [PURCELL@grinnell.edu](mailto:PURCELL@grinnell.edu)

Office Hours: M, T, W 10-11 and by appointment (I strongly recommend appointments, as I have an irregular schedule because of the Rosenfield Program). I am here to help you learn this semester. Please come see me during office hours or make an appointment, so I can speak with you one-on-one. Call or e-mail me anytime with questions or problems. I am available!

### **Course Outline and Objectives:**

This course provides an introduction to issues of historical causation, argumentation, and evidence, through the lens of U.S. History in the age of the American, French, and Haitian Revolutions. We will consider how historians have formed and changed their interpretations over time as we also discover how and why historical change took place.

One of our main tasks in this class will be to learn to analyze U.S. history in a transnational context. How did the American, French, and Haitian revolutions influence one another? How did their social implications differ? What do we gain by viewing the United States in relationship to other countries, rather than in isolation? How does the narrative of U.S. history relate to British, French, and Caribbean history? How did these revolutions help to form the modern definition of human rights?

Students in this class will also learn to become better historians themselves (and, hopefully, to fall in love with the process of history). You will hone your reading, writing, speaking, and thinking skills. We are not *only* interested in the facts of history, but also in how the past becomes meaningful.

### **Required Books:**

John H. Arnold, *History: A Very Short Introduction* (2000)

Susan Branson, *These Fiery Frenchified Dames* (2001)

Laurent Dubois and John D. Garrigus, *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean, 1789-1804* (2006)

Lynn Hunt, *The French Revolution and Human Rights* (1996)

Cynthia A. Kierner, *Revolutionary America, 1750-1815: Sources and Interpretation* (2003)

Roger Wilkins, *Jefferson's Pillow: The Founding Fathers and the Dilemma of Black Patriotism* (2002)

Gordon S. Wood, *The American Revolution: A History* (2003)

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (2007)

Alfred F. Young, *The Shoemaker and the Teaparty* (1999)

\*Articles for this class can be found on e-reserve through the library catalogue.

**Student Responsibilities and Evaluation:**

This course will consist of a mixture of lecture, discussion, small-group work, and other in-class exercises. From time to time you will need to meet with a small group or to view a film outside of class. Students are expected to attend all classes having done the reading and ready to discuss it. Learning is a collaborative process, so speak up and share your ideas with your class-mates!

All assignments must be turned in on time and good order. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, with normal fonts and margins. All citations must be in footnotes or endnotes in University of Chicago style. Further guidelines for papers will be handed out in class. Extensions (for sickness or other emergency) will not be granted unless they are approved ahead of time. Late assignments will receive a deduction of one-half letter grade per day and will not be accepted more than two days late. Please familiarize yourself with the Student Handbook guidelines about academic dishonesty at Grinnell, and abide by the rules.

Students in this course will complete a film review, a short document analysis paper, a book review, a French Revolution research assignment, one 3-4 page paper, a 7-10 page annotated bibliography, and a final exam. Other in-class assignments will count towards class participation.

Please note, poor attendance will seriously hurt your grade in this class. You cannot participate if you are not in class. If you must miss class for an activity or athletic event, please arrange your absence with me at least one week in advance.

If you require accommodation for any diagnosed disability, please let Prof. Purcell during the first week of class.

**Grading:**

Film review	5%
Document analysis	5%
Book review	10%
Research assignment	5%
3-4 page paper	15%
Annotated bibliog.	20%
Final exam	20%
Class participation	20%

---

**Course Schedule and Assignments:**

Fri. (Aug. 28) Course Introduction

**What is History?**

Mon. (Aug. 31) History: lies and truths

*Reading Due: Arnold, Chapters 1-3*

Wed. (Sept. 2) Sources and Arguments

*Reading Due: Arnold, Chapters 4-5*

**Thurs. (Sept. 3) 11:00am JRC 101 Scholar's Convocation Lynn Hunt "Inventing Human Rights"**

Fri. (Sept. 4) Is the Past a Foreign Country?

*Reading Due: Arnold, Chapters 6-7*

**Thursday Sept. 3 & Mon. Sept. 7 7:00-8:30 p.m. ARH 224 "Midwife's Tale" showing**

Film is also on reserve at Burling Listening Room and the AV Center

Mon. (Sept. 7) Visit Grinnell College Archives \*meet in Burling Library basement

Wed. (Sept. 9) Discuss "Midwife's Tale"

**Assignment Due: Film Review**

Fri. (Sept. 11) Atlantic History and Transatlantic History

*Reading Due: Kierner, Chapter 1*

**The American Revolution as a Transatlantic Crisis**

Mon. (Sept. 14) Colonial Context

*Reading Due: Kierner, pp. 49-53*

Wed. (Sept. 16) Imperial Crisis

*Reading Due: Wood, pp. 3-44*

Fri. (Sept. 18) Interpreting the Imperial Crisis

*Reading Due: Kierner, Chapters 3-4*

**Assignment Due: Document Analysis paper**

Mon. (Sept. 21) Revolutionary Ideology, Revolutionary Politics

*Reading Due: Wood, Preface and pp. 47-74*

Wed. (Sept. 23) Declarations of Independence

*Reading Due: Kierner, Chapter 5; David Armitage, "The Declaration of Independence in World Context," OAH Magazine of History 18 (2004): 61-66 (on reserve).*

Fri. (Sept. 25) The Revolutionary War

*Reading Due: Wood, pp. 74-117; Kierner, pp. 141-152; 170-180; 186-191*

Mon. (Sept. 28) Women and the American Revolution

*Reading Due: Kierner, pp. 166-168, 191-193, 326-329*

Wed. (Sept. 30) What is an Annotated Bibliography?

Fri. (Oct. 2) Race and Power

*Reading Due: Roger Wilkins, Jefferson's Pillow*

Mon. (Oct. 5) Crisis of the 1780s

*Reading Due: Wood, pp. 117-166; Kierner, pp. 218-221, 227-243*

Wed. (Oct. 7) Creating the Constitution

*Reading Due: Kierner pp. 243-285*

Fri. (Oct. 9) Revolutionary Legacies

*Reading Due: Young, Shoemaker and the Tea Party*

Mon. (Oct. 12) Eighteenth-Century News and Print Culture

**Assignment Due: Book Review**

Wed. (Oct. 14) The French Revolution

*Reading Due: website Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution  
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/> "Social Causes of the Revolution" "Monarchy Falls" "War, Terror, and Resistance to the Revolution"*

Fri. (Oct. 16) The French Revolution

*Reading Due: website Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution  
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/> "How to Read Images"*

OCTOBER 17-25 FALL BREAK

### **The French Revolution and Human Rights**

Mon. (Oct. 26) The Revolutionary Origins of Human Rights

*Reading Due: Hunt, pp. 1-32*

Wed. (Oct. 28) Defining Rights before 1789

*Reading Due: Hunt, pp. 35-70*

Fri. (Oct. 30) Searching and Researching the French Revolution

**Assignment Due: Research assignment due**

Mon. (Nov. 2) Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen

*Reading Due: Review U.S. Constitution; Hunt, pp. 71-79*

Wed. (Nov. 4) Debates over Citizenship and Rights

*Reading Due: Hunt, pp. 80-139*

Fri. (Nov. 6) No Class Meeting

### **The United States in the Era of the French Revolution**

Mon. (Nov. 9) Politics and Society in the Early American Republic

*Reading Due: Kierner, pp. 286-302, 305-323*

Wed. (Nov. 11) Debates over Citizenship and Rights

*Reading Due: Kierner, pp. 211-225*

Fri. (Nov. 13) The United States and The French Revolution

*Reading Due: Kierner, pp. 303-305; Matthew Rainbow Hale, "On Their Tiptoes: Political Time and Newspapers during the Advent of the Radicalized French Revolution, circa 1792-1793," Journal of the Early Republic 29 (2009): 191-218 (on reserve).*

Mon. (Nov. 16) Philadelphia Women

*Reading Due: Branson, Introduction-Chapter 2*

Wed. (Nov. 18) Philadelphia Women

*Reading Due: Branson, Chapter 3-Conclusion*

Fri. (Nov. 20) The Election of 1800

*Reading Due: Kierner, pp. 345-347, 355-362*

**Assignment Due: 3-4 pp. Paper**

**Slave Revolution in the Caribbean & Slave Rebellion in the U.S.**

Mon. (Nov. 23) Revolution, Emancipation, Independence

*Reading Due: Dubois and Garrigus, Preface-pp. 46*

Wed. (Nov. 25) Slave Revolution and Emancipation

*Reading Due: Dubois and Garrigus, Ch. 1-3*

Fri. (Nov. 27) THANKSGIVING BREAK

Mon. (Nov. 30) Emancipation, 1794-1798

*Reading Due: Dubois and Garrigus, Ch. 4*

Wed. (Dec. 2) War and Independence

*Reading Due: Dubois and Garrigus, Ch. 6*

Fri. (Dec. 4) The Haitian Revolution and the United States

*Reading Due: Dubois and Garrigus, Ch. 5; James Alexander Dun, "What Avenues of Commerce, Will You, Americans, Not Explore!": Commercial Philadelphia's Vantage onto the Early Haitian Revolution," William and Mary Quarterly 63 (2005): 473-505 (online at the History Cooperative; on reserve).*

Mon. (Dec. 7) Slavery: History & Geography

**Annotated Bibliographies Due**

Wed. (Dec. 9) Slave Rebellion in Virginia

*Reading Due: Douglas Egerton, "Gabriel's Conspiracy and the Election of 1800," Journal of Southern History 156 (1990): 191-214 (on reserve).*

Fri. (Dec. 11) **The U.S. Faces a Revolutionary World**

EXAM DUE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 2:00 PM Prof. Purcell's office