

History 195.01 The United States in the Age of Transatlantic Revolution
Spring 2009

Prof. Sarah J. Purcell

MWF 8:00-8:50 ARH 305

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Office Hours: MWF 9-11 and by appointment. 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.

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)

Jules R. Benjamin, *A Student's Guide to History*, 10th ed. (2007)

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)

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:

Mon. (Jan. 19) Course Introduction
MLK, Jr. Day events 6:30 p.m. JRC 101

What is History?

Wed. (Jan. 21) History: lies and truths
Reading Due: Arnold, Chapters 1-3; Benjamin, pp. 1-9

Fri. (Jan. 23) Sources and Arguments
Reading Due: Arnold, Chapters 4-5; Benjamin, pp. 9-17

Mon. (Jan. 26) Is the Past a Foreign Country?

Reading Due: Arnold, Chapters 6-7, Benjamin, pp. 19-25

Monday Jan. 26 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

Wed. (Jan. 28) Discuss "Midwife's Tale" (meet with Prof. Prevost's class)

Assignment Due: Film Review (see Benjamin, p.140)

Fri. (Jan. 30) Atlantic History and Transatlantic History

Reading Due: Kierner, Chapter 1; Benjamin, pp. 100-107

The American Revolution as a Transatlantic Crisis

Mon. (Feb. 2) Colonial Context

Reading Due: Kierner, pp. 49-53

Wed. (Feb. 4) Imperial Crisis

Reading Due: Wood, pp. 3-44; Benjamin pp. 26-36

Fri. (Feb. 6) Interpreting the Imperial Crisis

Reading Due: Kierner, Chapters 3-4

Assignment Due: Document Analysis paper

Mon. (Feb. 9) Revolutionary Ideology, Revolutionary Politics

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

Wed. (Feb. 11) Declarations of Independence

Reading Due: Kierner, Chapter 5; David Armitage, "The Declaration of Independence in World Context," OAH Magazine of History 2004 18(3): 61-66.

Fri. (Feb. 13) The Revolutionary War

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

Mon. (Feb. 16) Women and the American Revolution

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

Wed. (Feb. 18) What is an Annotated Bibliography?

Reading Due: Benjamin, pp. 83, 146-158, 227-233

Fri. (Feb. 20) Race and Power

Work on Reading Wilkins, Jefferson's Pillow

Mon. (Feb. 23) Race and Power

Reading Due: Wilkins, Jefferson's Pillow

Wed. (Feb. 25) Crisis of the 1780s

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

Fri. (Feb. 27) Creating the Constitution
Kierner pp. 243-285; Woody Holton, "An 'Excess of Democracy'?—Or a Shortage? The Federalists' Earliest Adversaries," Journal of the Early Republic 25 (2005): 339-382.

Mon. (March 2) Revolutionary Legacies
Reading Due: Young, Shoemaker and the Tea Party, Introduction-pp. 84

Wed. (March 4) Revolutionary Legacies
Reading Due: Young, Shoemaker and the Tea Party, pp. 85-207

Fri. (March 6) Eighteenth-Century News and Print Culture
Assignment Due: Book Review

The French Revolution and Human Rights

Mon. (March 9) 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"*

Wed. (March 11) The French Revolution
*Reading Due: website Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/> "How to Read Images"*

Fri. (March 13) Searching and Researching the French Revolution
Assignment Due: Research assignment due

MARCH 16-MARCH 27 SPRING BREAK

Mon. (March 30) The Revolutionary Origins of Human Rights
Reading Due: Hunt, pp. 1-32

Wed. (April 1) Defining Rights before 1789
Reading Due: Hunt, pp. 35-70

Fri. (April 3) Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen
Reading Due: Review U.S. Constitution; Hunt, pp. 71-79

Mon. (April 6) Debates over Citizenship and Rights
Reading Due: Hunt, pp. 80-139

The United States in the Era of the French Revolution

Wed. (April 8) Politics and Society in the Early American Republic
Reading Due: Kierner, pp. 286-302, 305-323

Fri. (April 10) Debates over Citizenship and Rights
Reading Due: Kierner, pp. 211-217, 221-225

Mon. (April 13) The United States and The French Revolution
Reading Due: Kierner, pp. 303-305

Wed. (April 15) Philadelphia Women
Reading Due: Branson, Introduction-Chapter 2

Fri. (April 17) Philadelphia Women
Reading Due: Branson, Chapter 3-Conclusion

Mon. (April 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.

Wed. (April 22) Revolution, Emancipation, Independence
Reading Due: Dubois and Garrigus, Preface-pp. 46

Fri. (April 24) Slave Revolution and Emancipation
Reading Due: Dubois and Garrigus, Ch. 2 & 3

Mon. (April 27) Emancipation, 1794-1798
Reading Due: Dubois and Garrigus, Ch. 4

Wed. (April 29) War and Independence
Reading Due: Dubois and Garrigus, Ch. 6

Fri. (May 1) 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 (3): 473-505 (online at the History Cooperative)

Mon. (May 4) Slave Rebellion in Virginia
Reading Due: Douglas Egerton, "Gabriel's Conspiracy and the Election of 1800," Journal of Southern History 1990 56 (2): 191-214.

Wed. (May 6) **Annotated Bibliographies Due**

Fri. (May 8) **The U.S. Faces a Revolutionary World**
Reading Due: Bethel Saler, "An Empire for Liberty, a State for Empire: The U.S. National State before and after the Revolution of 1800," in The Revolution of 1800: Democracy, Race, and the New Republic, ed. James Horn, Jan Ellen Lewis, and Peter S. Onuf (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2002), 360-382. [distributed in class]

EXAM THURSDAY, MAY 14 9:00 a.m.