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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Email: PURCELL@grinnell.edu

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:


Susan Branson, These Fiery Frenchified Dames (2001)

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


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

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Film review</td>
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<td>Document analysis</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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**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

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


Mon. (March 2) Revolutionary Legacies

*Reading Due: Young, Shoemaker and the Tea Party, Introduction-p. 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*

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**The French Revolution and Human Rights**

Mon. (March 9) The French Revolution

*Reading Due: website Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French 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*

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**MARCH 16-MARCH 27 SPRING BREAK**

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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*

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**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  

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

Fri. (May 8) **The U.S. Faces a Revolutionary World**  

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