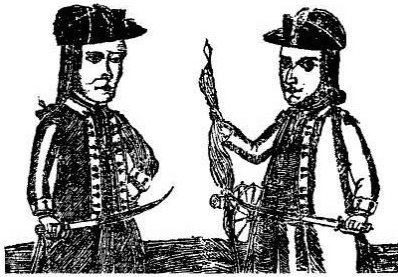


# AMH6991 The American Revolution



INSTRUCTOR: MATT PURSELL

## Course Description

AMH6991 explores the causes, course and consequences of the revolution, as both a war for independence and an internal social upheaval. Topics include the eighteenth-century commercial and political empire; colonial culture and society; the imperial crises and the collapse of royal authority; fighting forces and the peace; and the building of state and federal governments; and relevant events in the West Indies and the wider Atlantic world.

## Course Goals

- Students will improve foundational skills of engaged reading, critical thinking, and formal writing
- Students will be expected to master the broad outlines of historical events in the revolutionary era
- Students will learn to design and execute a literature review and follow disciplinary conventions
- Students will learn to trace scholarly debates and demonstrate a facility with interpreting primaries

## Requirements

**Short Papers:** Students will write three 5-page, double-spaced papers, critically synthesizing readings.

**Literature Review:** Students will complete a 14-page paper on any topic that is both within the scope of the course and approved by the instructor. A proposal and annotated bibliography will be submitted at end of week 2.

**Participation:** Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive prepared to make substantive contributions to our discussions. Students will also provide an informal presentation at the end of the term on their research.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Weights</u>	<u>Dates</u>
A 93% up	Paper 1 15%	January 27
A- 90% - 92%	Paper 2 20%	<i>Paper 1 Due</i>
B+ 87% to 89%	Paper 3 20%	February 17
B 83% to 86%	Literature Review 35%	<i>Paper 2 Due</i>
B- 80% to 82%	Participation 10%	March 3
C+ 77% to 79%		<i>Paper 3 Due</i>
C 73% to 76%		April 25
C- 70% to 72%		<i>Literature Review</i>
D 60% to 69%		
F 59% down		

## Course Communication

Direct routine questions to me at [mpursell1@uwf.edu](mailto:mpursell1@uwf.edu) or at (850) 474-2684. I will usually reply within 24 hours. Students can find me in office hours—MWF 11:00-1:00 in building 50, room 143 and by appointment.

## Readings

There are no assigned books for the class. Readings (chapters and articles) are available instead through eLearning as PDFs. However, for those who know little about early America and the revolution, I recommend the following three texts. They cover—in the order listed below—the colonial background, the war, and the social revolution. Four chapters of the Countryman book are assigned in the syllabus.

Alan Taylor, *Colonial America: A Very Short Introduction*

Jeremy Black, *War for America, The Fight for Independence, 1775-1783*

Edward Countryman, *The American Revolution* (Revised Edition)

## Attendance and Assignments Policy

Assignments are due in an eLearning Drop Box, and grades are posted in eLearning for students' to review. Missing an exam or paper due date will result in an F for the assignment unless the professor or TA is provided (in a timely manner) with documentation for an excused absences: religious holiday, participation in official university athletic event, legal responsibilities (such as jury duty), a death in the family, or serious illness.

## Plagiarism

I will use several methods to check the originality of papers. If any part of the paper has been plagiarized, the student will receive an F on the assignment. In egregious cases, a report will be forwarded to the administration for disciplinary action. [http://library.uwf.edu/tutorials/writing\\_skills/avoiding\\_plagiarism.cfm](http://library.uwf.edu/tutorials/writing_skills/avoiding_plagiarism.cfm).

## Students with Disabilities

The Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) at the UWF supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, please notify the instructor or the SDRC as soon as possible. You may contact the SDRC office by e-mail at [sdrc@uwf.edu](mailto:sdrc@uwf.edu) or by phone at (850) 474-2387. Accommodations will be determined on an individual basis.

## Weather Emergency Information

Closures are announced on the UWF website and broadcast at 88.1MHz. Hurricane preparation procedures are on the UWF Home Web Page and Argus, which also announce procedures and closings. Hurricane preparedness plans at <http://uwfemergency.org/hurricaneprep.cfm> and information about other emergency procedures is available on the UWF web site: <http://uwfemergency.org/>

## Course Schedule

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### UNIT I: Approaches

#### Week 1

Monday, January 6: Politics and War

Readings:

Nash, "Introduction," *The Unknown American Revolution*

Elliot, "The Very Bloody Road to America"

Jeremy Black, "Could the British Have Won?" (Mp3)

#### Week 2

Monday, January 13: Framing the Revolution

Readings:

Shy, Chapter 14, "The American Colonies in War and Revolution, 1748-1783"

Draper, Chapter 20, "A Degree of Importance"

Gould, Chapter 10, "Revolution and Counter-Revolution"

Canny and Pagden, "Identity and Independence"

Friday, January 17: **Proposal and Annotated Bibliography Due in Drop Box**

### UNIT II: Colonies and Empire

#### Week 3

Monday, January 20: No Class (Martin Luther King Day)

#### Week 4

Monday, January 27: The Empire

**[Paper 1 on Week 4 Readings Due in Class]**

Readings:

Speck, "The International and Imperial Context"

Price, "Who Cared about the Colonies? The Impact of the Thirteen Colonies on British Society"

Truxes, "Introduction" and Chapter 4, "Mountmen"

Griffin, Chapter 1, "O Happy Country! Happy Kingdom!"

Elliot, Chapter 8, "Empire and Identity"

McCusker and Menard, Chapter 2, "The Strategy of Economic Development"

## Week 5

### Monday, February 3: The Colonies

#### Readings:

- Draper, Chapter 6, "This Million doubling"
- Draper, Chapter 2, "Speculative Reasoners"
- Sydnor, Chapters 3-5
- Nash, Chapter 1, "Roots of Radicalism"
- Kay, "The North Carolina Regulation, 1766-1776"

## UNIT III: Imperial Crises

## Week 6

### Monday, February 10: Reform and Rebellion

#### Readings:

- Conway, "Britain and the Revolutionary Crises, 1763-1791"
- Countryman, Chapters 2, "British Challenge, Elite Response"
- Bailyn, *Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, Chapters 2 and 3

## Week 7

### Monday, February 17: Reform and Rebellion 2

#### **[Paper 2 on Weeks 6 and 7 Readings Due in Class]**

#### Readings:

- Countryman, Chapter 4, "Independence and Revolution"
- Draper, Chapter 14, "Flattering Whisper of independency"
- Holton, Chapter 1, "Land Speculators versus Indians and the Privy Council"
- Egnal and Ernst, "Economic Interpretation of the American Revolution"

## UNIT IV: The War

## Week 8

### Monday, February 24: The Glorious Cause

#### Readings:

- McCullough, Part I: "The Siege" (Chapters 1-3)
- Lee, Chapter 7, "'One Bold Stroke': Washington and the British in Pennsylvania, 1777-78"
- Buel, Chapter 4, "Contending with Albion's Might"
- Rodger, Chapters 21-23

Week 9

Monday, March 3: Other Wars

**[Paper 3 on Week 9 Readings Due in Class]**

Readings:

Lee, Chapter 8, "'Malice Enough in Our Hearts': Sullivan and the Iroquois, 1779"

Rossmun, "Philadelphia Militia, 1775-83: Active Duty and Active Radicalism"

Martin, "A 'Most Undisciplined Profligate Crew': Protest and Defiance in the Continental Ranks"

Hoffman, "The 'Dissaffected' in the Revolutionary South"

McNeil, Chapter 6, "Cornwallis vs. *Anopheles Quadrimaculatus*, 1780-1781"

Judd, "Frederick Philipse III of Westchester County: A Reluctant Loyalist"

Week 10

Spring Vacation (March 10-14)

UNIT V: Outcomes

Week 11

Monday, March 17: Outsiders

Readings:

Berlin, "Revolution in Black Life"

Pybus, "Henry 'Harry' Washington"

Furstenberg, "Beyond Freedom and Slavery: Autonomy, Virtue and Resistance"

Week 12

Monday, March 24: Establishing a Nation

Readings:

Wood, Chapter "Diplomat"

Wright, "The British Objectives, 1780-1783: 'If Not Dominion Then Trade'"

Countryman, Chapter 5, "Fourteen States"

Nash, "Sparks from the Altar"

Week 13

Monday, March 31: Legacies

Readings:

Lee, "Lessons in Humility: The Revolutionary Transformation of the Governing Elite"

Holton, Chapter 9, "A Murmuring Underneath: Rebellion"

Rakove, Chapters 4-7

McCusker, "Economic Growth, Revolution, and the Consequences of Independence"

## UNIT VI: Contexts

### Week 14

Monday, April 7: The British West Indies

Readings:

O'Shaughnessy, *The Empire Divided*, Chapters 4-9

### Week 15

Monday, April 14: The Wider Atlantic

Readings:

Thornton, "The Revolutionary Moment Atlantic"

McNeill, *End of the Old Atlantic World: America, Africa, Europe, 1770-1888*"

Marshall, "Britain without America?—A Second Empire"

### Week 16

Monday, April 21:

Presentations

Friday, April 25: **Literature Review Due at 3 p.m.**