Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: HIST 350

Course Title: American Revolution

Number of: Credit Hours: 3  Lecture Hours: 3  Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Analysis of the American Revolution during the eighteenth century. The course explores the causes and the consequences of the colonial rebellion against the British Empire in North America. In particular, it focuses upon the cultural, economic, military, and constitutional issues shaping the struggle for independence. Significant attention will be given to the clash of values, interests, arms, and ambitions transforming the thirteen colonies into the United States in 1787. Prerequisite: HIST 121 or instructor's permission. Offered odd Fall.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): HIST 121 or instructor's permission.

Text(s): The required text must be assigned and supplemented with a minimum of two recommended texts. Additional primary and secondary sources may be assigned as well. Most current editions of the following:

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


Other appropriate scholarly monographs may be assigned.

**Course Objectives:**
- To recognize the main currents of U.S. history during the era of the American Revolution.
- To explore the interrelationships between civic republican discourse and the new secular order of the United States.
- To compare and contrast various historiographical perspectives on the American Revolution.

**Measurable Learning Outcomes**
- Describe the significant people, places, and events of the American Revolution.
- Analyze the underlying factors that shaped colonial resistance movements in Massachusetts and in Virginia.
- Explain the decision for independence made by the Continental Congress in 1776.
- Differentiate the major objectives, campaigns, and tactics of the Continental Army and partisan militia.
- Describe the impact of French support for the American independence movement after the battle of Saratoga.
- Study the responses of natives, blacks, and women to the rebellion against the British Empire during wartime.
- Analyze the factors contributing to the defeat of British forces at Yorktown and to the signing of the Treaty of Paris.
- Describe the crisis of the Confederation leading to the Federal Constitution and to the Bill of Rights.
- Evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, and trends in the historiography of the American Revolution.

**Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):**
Because the course represents an upper level history elective, it bears a distinctive responsibility for teaching advanced knowledge within the discipline. It must be distinguished as an advanced course by three structural components: extensive reading, intensive writing, and historiographical thinking. It must require advanced students to complete both in class and out of class projects (i.e., midterms, finals, team reports, quizzes, research papers). It must demand a minimum of 1000 pages of required text reading, 1000 words of type-written work, and a consideration of the range and variance of historical scholarship. Finally, it must develop student skills and abilities for researching diverse sources of knowledge and organizing findings through synthesis.

- Interpreting the American Revolution
- Society and Politics under Salutary Neglect
- British Reforms and Colonial Resistance
- The Imperial Crisis
- Continental Congress
- Declaring Independence
- George Washington, Commander in Chief
- Loyalists and Partisans
• Natives, Africans, and Women
• The International Conflict
• Toleration versus Religious Freedom
• Yorktown and the Treaty of Paris
• The Articles of Confederation
• Making the Constitution of 1787
• Crafting the Bill of Rights
• The American Republic

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 35

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

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Date: May 10, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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