Kennesaw State University
History 4411
The American Revolution, 1754-1789
Spring 2012
M/W 5-6:15 p.m.
EB 72

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SO 4092
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Office Hours: M/W 11 a.m.-noon and by appointment

Course Description: This course examines the American Revolution from the beginning of the colonists’ disputes with Britain through the ratification of the Constitution. We will study the differences between the colonial and British political systems, conflicts that arose during and after the Seven Years’ War, and the decade-long dispute over the issue of taxation. We will also review the American decision to declare independence, the war between Britain and the colonies, including its international dimension and the American and British home fronts, the peace agreement, Confederation government, and the creation and adoption of the Constitution. In addition, we will examine the roles of women, Native Americans, African Americans, and loyalists in the conflict.

Course Goals: This course has two major goals. First, you will learn about the origins of the Revolution, the conduct and outcome of the war, its effects on the larger society, and the creation of the American system of government. Second, you will develop critical thinking and analytical skills, and your ability to express ideas verbally and in writing, through reading, discussion, and written work.

Expectations: Success in this course requires regular attendance, timely completion of all reading assignments, active class participation, and a solid effort on all exams and written assignments. You are responsible for all of the assigned readings whether or not the material is covered in class. Attendance will be taken regularly and used to help assess your level of effort. Students who demonstrate consistent effort may have their final grade adjusted upward. If you miss a lecture class, you should get the notes from a classmate. Should you miss a discussion and wish to receive partial credit, you must explain your absence to me in person and complete a makeup assignment. Makeup exams are not allowed except in extraordinary circumstances, subject to verification of the reason for absence and my approval.

Required Texts:
Jim Piecuch, The Battle of Camden: A Documentary History
Jim Piecuch, Three Peoples, One King: Loyalists, Indians, and Slaves in the Revolutionary South
**Grading:** Your final grade will be determined as follows.

- Final Exam – 25%
- Short Paper 1 – 10%
- Short Paper 2 – 15%
- Short Paper 3 – 15%
- Research Paper – 20%
- Discussion – 15%

Discussion is an important part of the class and can affect your final average by as much as two letter grades. Each discussion is the equivalent of a quiz and should be treated as seriously.

**Course Schedule and Assignments:**
(Subject to Change)

Jan 9: Introduction

Jan. 11: America on the Eve of the Revolution; Discussion
  Readings: Brown, 28-37, 47-59

Jan. 13: End of Add/Drop Period

Jan. 16: No Class – Martin Luther King Holiday

Jan 18: Cooperation and Conflict: The Seven Years’ War

Jan. 23: Pontiac’s Rebellion and British Indian Policy

Jan. 25: Discussion: The Effects of Imperial Wars on the Colonies
  Readings: Brown, 76-96

Jan. 30: Colonial Politics and Ideology

Feb. 1: The Stamp Act Crisis and the Townshend Acts

Feb. 6: Discussion: The Dispute over Taxation
  Readings” Brown, 99-136

Feb. 8: The Tea Protests and the British Response

Feb. 13: Discussion: To The Brink of War
  Readings: Brown, 140-155

Feb. 15: Independence and a New Government

Feb. 20: Discussion: Declaring Independence
  Readings: Brown, 155-172, 180-188
Feb. 22: Preparing for War  
   Readings: Brown, 191-198

Feb. 27: The War in the North  
   **First Short Paper Due**

Feb. 29: Diplomacy and French Intervention

March 5 and 7: No Class – Spring Break

Mar. 12: The War in the South  
Last Day to Withdraw from Classes without Academic Penalty

Mar. 14: Discussion: The Military Dimension of the Revolution  
   Readings: Piecuch, *Battle of Camden*, all

Mar. 19: Civil-Military Relations in the Emerging Republic  
   **Second Short Paper Due**

Mar. 21: The British Home Front

Mar. 26: Loyalists, Native Americans, and African Americans, Part 1

Mar. 28: Loyalists, Native Americans, and African Americans, Part 2

Apr. 2: Discussion: Loyalists, Native Americans, and African Americans  

Apr. 4: Discussion: Loyalists, Native Americans, and African Americans  
   Readings: Piecuch, *Three Peoples*, through chapter 4

Apr. 9: Discussion: Loyalists, Native Americans, and African Americans  
   Readings: Piecuch, *Three Peoples*, chapter 5-end

Apr. 11: Women and Families in the Revolution; Discussion  
   Readings: Brown, 288-294, 296-305

Apr. 16: Religion and the Revolution; Discussion  
   Readings: Brown, 312-339  
   **Third Short Paper Due**

Apr. 18: The Confederation Era; Discussion  
   Readings: Brown, 343-363

Apr. 23: The Constitution
Apr. 25: Discussion: The Constitution

Apr. 30: Review
   Research Paper Due

Final Exam TBA

Miscellaneous

**Academic Honesty:** Please read the section on this subject in your student handbook. I expect all work you turn in to be your own, prepared without outside assistance or collaboration. Plagiarism (presenting someone else’s work or ideas as your own) is easier to spot than you may realize. University rules require that I report suspected cases of plagiarism to the administration, and being found guilty of this offense can result in severe penalties. In addition, I will automatically fail you for the course. Cheating on exams in any form, including providing answers or information to other students, will also result in a failing grade.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible and provide the necessary documentation so that we can make arrangements to deal with this situation.

**Cell Phones and Pagers:** Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be turned off before you enter the classroom. Any student whose phone or pager sounds during class will be asked to leave the room immediately. Repeated violations may result in the offender being banned from the classroom.

**Assignments:** Writing assignments, lists of study terms, additional readings, etc., will be made available well in advance of the due date. We will discuss all assignments in class. Please see me if you have any problem with the assignments.

**Problems and Personal Matters:** If you have any difficulty with this course, such as understanding the readings or lectures, speaking in discussion, or personal issues that may affect how well you do in the course. Please see me immediately. The sooner that I know about a problem, the faster we can solve it.