UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
Fall Semester 2015
History 3504
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Tuesdays, Thursdays 12.30pm-1.45pm: Laurel Hall 110

Christopher Clark
Office: Wood Hall, Room 121
Office phone: 860-486-1965  E-mail: c.clark@uconn.edu
Office hours: Wednesdays, 10am-12 noon or at other times by appointment

Amy Sopcak-Joseph
Office: Wood Hall, Room 215
E-mail: amy.sopcak@uconn.edu
Office hours: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The course will explore the events that led to the breakdown of British rule in the American colonies, to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, and to the American declaration of independence from Britain in 1776. It will examine the course of the war, and its effects, and the establishment of new political institutions in the United States, culminating in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. We'll examine explanations for these events and their outcomes; the role of social and political ideologies and conflicts in shaping them; and some of the American Revolution's international dimensions.

HuskyCT
This course has an on-line site in HuskyCT. It will include:

- This syllabus; links to some readings, to timelines, and other supplementary material; any lecture handouts and PowerPoint presentations, which will be added after they've been presented in class; announcements and details of assignments, to be added from time to time

Check the HuskyCT site regularly. But if you are e-mailing us, please use our regular e-mail addresses (at the top of this page), and not the e-mail facility on HuskyCT.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class meets twice each week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12.30-1.45pm. Attendance at all meetings is required. Please be punctual. If you should be unavoidably delayed or prevented from attending, you must notify Christopher Clark as soon as you can (in advance unless that's impossible).

Classes will include lectures and discussions. You are encouraged to ask questions or make comments at any time.

Credit will be awarded at the end of the semester for good class participation. Ensure that you have done the assigned reading for each meeting, and that you are prepared to take part in discussion. To this end, you will be required to write and hand in a short piece of work at each class marked with an asterisk* (see “Assignments,” below).

Reading materials are available electronically. For each item the syllabus may provide a link or other guidance; or show “H” to indicate that it is on the HuskyCT site. Otherwise the item is available via the “America: History & Life” database on the UConn Libraries website: go to http://rdl.lib.uconn.edu/subjects/1907, click on the “America: History & Life” link, enter author and title information in the search fields, and follow links to the full-text version. Off-campus users will be prompted to log in using their NetID.
ASSIGNMENTS

For classes marked *...* in the syllabus you must prepare a 400-word (two page, double-spaced) paper on an aspect of the week’s topic, and submit this to the HuskyCT site by the start of class. You must submit a total of five of these 2-page papers during the semester, at least three of them on or before October 15.

Each paper you submit will be graded and returned to you. Grades for the 2-page papers will contribute, along with participation in discussion, to the “class participation” component of your final course grade. Failure to complete three 2-page papers by October 15 or five 2-page papers in total will result in a lower final course grade.

In addition to the regular reading and writing assignments and class participation, each student will complete an 8-page research paper, due at the final class meeting on December 10, and a final examination, at a date and time in Exam Week to be announced.

The 8-page research paper

Each student will conduct research for and write an 8-page paper on an aspect of the American Revolution, based on primary source material, and will submit this by December 10. The HuskyCT site homepage has a link to a file containing a list of American newspapers and British political magazines of the Revolutionary era that are available electronically via the UConn Libraries website. Either choose a colony/state and a year between 1760 and 1791, and read a newspaper from that state for that year, or select a major event between those dates and read the coverage of it in several newspapers. Write a paper based on your findings, referring when relevant to themes raised by your other reading. Further details of this assignment will be given in class and posted to the HuskyCT site.

Grading

Research paper: will count for 40% of the final course grade
Final exam: 30%
The remaining 30% of the grade will be based on participation in class discussion and the five 2-page writing assignments

Failure to submit any assignment will result in an “F” for that portion of the final course grade.

Standards for grading papers and exams

Participating in class and completing assignments are necessary, but not sufficient, to earn a high grade. Work must also be of good quality.

“A” is for work of very high quality, demonstrating an accurate and insightful understanding of the topic, which states and develops a coherent line of argument that is well supported by evidence and attentive to historical context, and that is well written and free of major spelling or grammatical errors;

“B” is for good-quality work that demonstrates an accurate understanding of the topic, develops a clearly identifiable line of argument, adequately supported by evidence and grasp of historical context, and is organized into coherent paragraphs and complete sentences with few errors of spelling or grammar;

“C” is for mediocre work that fulfils the requirements of the assignment, but is superficial or simplistic, shows incomplete understanding of the topic or of the historical context, or is poorly written or poorly organized;
“D” is for poor-quality work that falls short of fulfilling the requirements of the assignment because it lacks understanding, fails to attempt to make an argument, or is badly written or organized; “F” is for work that demonstrates ignorance of the topic, or that is in any way plagiarized.

A warning about cheating and plagiarism

Academic misconduct is a violation of the University of Connecticut’s Student Code and will not be tolerated. Misconduct includes signing an attendance sheet for another student; copying or sharing answers in papers or exams; plagiarism; having someone else do your academic work; having unauthorized materials or using any electronic device in an exam; or communicating with another student in an exam.

Penalties range from an F for an individual piece of work to an F for the course according to the seriousness of any offense.

Plagiarism in written work consists of presenting someone else’s words as if they were your own. We check submitted papers to ensure that this has not happened. Here are some general suggestions for avoiding plagiarism. Please read and follow them all:

When you are writing a paper, you may not copy any passage from a book, article, website, or any other person’s writing without indicating that you are doing so.

Direct quotations must be in quote marks, and the sources for all passages must be provided.

Cutting and pasting passages (from any source), paraphrasing them (by adding or cutting out words), or altering words to disguise the origin, is as unacceptable as direct copying without attribution, and will be treated similarly.

However, a paper that consists mainly of quoted passages from other sources is likely to earn a poor grade. Your aim when writing should be to express as much as possible of what you want to say in your own words. Quotations should usually be brief, and used mostly as evidence to illustrate or demonstrate what you intend to argue.

You can avoid plagiarism by taking care when you make notes to indicate the sources you are using, and to place in quote marks any passages you copy directly into your notes.

When you use your notes to help compose what you are writing, do not copy directly from them, but find fresh ways of expressing what you are trying to say.

Do not draft a paper by cutting and pasting copied passages into it, even if you intend to delete these or place them in quotation marks and provide citations. In your hurry to finish the paper you might omit to remove or edit these passages.

Guidance about avoiding plagiarism and citing sources can be found at www.plagiarism.org, which you are strongly encouraged to consult. The units “Plagiarism 101” and “Citing Sources” are particularly relevant.

If you have any doubts or questions about how you should proceed, ask.

You should also read and be familiar with UConn’s statements and advice on academic integrity, accessible via the links at http://community.uconn.edu
Honors conversion

Students who wish to seek Honors credit for this course may do so by completing an additional assignment approved by the instructor. Brief details are available at the “Honors conversion” link on the course HuskyCT site.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

As noted on page 1, where no link is provided or “H” shown to indicate the HuskyCT site, access items via the “America: History and Life” database from http://rdl.lib.uconn.edu/subjects/1907.

September 1  Introduction to the course

September 3  The Declaration of Independence

Read:
Declaration of Independence (1776): http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/declare.asp
Thomas Jefferson’s “original rough draft” of the Declaration of Independence:
http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/declara/ruffdrft.html
Pauline Maier, American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence (1997), 143-153  H

September 8  American society before the Revolution

Read:
Jon Butler, Becoming America: The Revolution Before 1776 (2000), 8-49  H

*September 10*  The Seven Years’ War and its implications

Read:
The Albany Plan of Union (1754): http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/albany.asp
The Treaty of Paris (1763): http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/paris763.asp
Fred Anderson, Crucible of War: The Seven Years’ War and the Fate of Empire in British North America, 1754-1766 (2000), 518-528  H

September 15  Colonists, Native Americans and the “West”

Read:
Paxton Boys’ petition: “A Declaration and Remonstrance of the Distressed and Bleeding Frontier Inhabitants of the Province of Pennsylania ....,” (1764), 10-18:
https://archive.org/stream/declarationremon00smit#page/18/mode/2up
Royal Proclamation (1763): http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/proc1763.asp
Amibalon Mingo (Choctaw) recalls the arrival of the British in 1765:
http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6626
Letter from Sir William Johnson to the Earl of Dartmouth, 1772:
http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5710
Eric Hinderaker and Peter C. Mancall, At the Edge of Empire: The Backcountry in British North America (2003), 125-160  H
*September 17*  
British colonial policy and its effects, 1763-1770

Read...
Great Britain, Parliament: Stamp Act, 1765:  
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/stamp_act_1765.asp
Resolutions of the [Stamp Act] Congress, Oct. 19, 1765:  
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/resolu65.asp
Connecticut Resolutions on the Stamp Act, Dec. 1765:  
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/ct_resolutions_1765.asp
Great Britain, Parliament: Declaratory Act, 1766:  
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/declaratory_act_1766.asp
Massachusetts Circular Letter to Colonial Legislatures, Feb. 1768:  
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/mass_circ_let_1768.asp

September 22  
The emergence of popular politics in the American colonies

Read...
Resolutions of the Boston Town Meeting, Sept. 13, 1768:  
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/res_boston_1768.asp
Boston Non-importation agreement, 1768:  
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/boston_non_importation_1768.asp
... and two of the following:

*September 24*  
Social conflicts within the colonies

Read:
Charles Woodmason, “Journal,” (1768) on the North Carolina Regulation:  
http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6386
Herman Husband and the North Carolina Regulation (1770):  
http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6233

September 29  
From resistance towards revolution: the Boston Massacre

Read:
A Short Narrative of the Horrid Massacre in Boston (1770), 11-28:  
https://books.google.com/books?id=cathAAAAQAAJ&pg=PP2#v=onepage&q&f=false
A Fair Account of the Late Unhappy Disturbance at Boston in New England (1770), 10-22:  
https://books.google.com/books?id=bKtbAAAQAAJ&pg=PA3&hl=en#v=onepage&q&f=false
Pauline Maier, From Resistance to Revolution: Colonial Radicals and the Development of American Opposition to Britain, 1655-1776 (1972), chapter 7
October 1  Early American Newspapers: In-class preparation for research papers

*October 6*  From resistance towards revolution: the Boston Tea Party

Read:
Recollections of George Roberts Twelves Hewes (1834), at http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5799
and http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5825

October 8  Politicization

Boston Committee of Correspondence, Circular Letter, May 13, 1774:
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/circ_let_boston_1774.asp
Proceedings of Farmington, Conn., on the Boston Port Act, May 1774:
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/proc_farm_ct_1774.asp
New York Committee of Fifty-One to the Boston Committee of Correspondence, May 23, 1774:
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/letter_ny_comm_1774.asp
“Brutus” to the Free and Loyal Inhabitants of the City and Colony of New-York, 1774
http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5717 [the date 1770 given in the introduction to this item is incorrect]
Lieut-Gov. [Cadwallader] Colden to the Earl of Dartmouth, June 1, 1774:
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/letter_colden_dartmouth_1774.asp
H

*October 13*  The coming of war

Read:
First Continental Congress: Declaration and Resolves, Oct. 14, 1774:
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/resolves.asp
First Continental Congress, Articles of Association, Oct. 20, 1774:
http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/assoc74.htm
Massachusetts Provincial Convention, letter to Continental Congress, May 1775:
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/contcong_06-02-75.asp#1
Continental Congress: Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms, July 6, 1775:
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/arms.asp#1
H
Carol Berkin, Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for America’s Independence (2005), 26-49
H
October 15  Paths to Independence

Read:
Continental Congress: Petition to the King and Address to the Inhabitants of Great Britain, July 1775: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/controng_07-08-75.asp
Resolution of Richard Henry Lee, June 7, 1776: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/lee.asp
Virginia Declaration of Rights, June 12, 1776: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/virginia.asp
[Thomas Paine] Common Sense; Addressed to the Inhabitants of America (1776), at http://www.bartleby.com/133/ [Read at least Parts III and IV]

*October 20*  The phases of Revolutionary war

Read …
https://books.google.com/books?id=rMkbAAAMAAJ&pg=PA299&dq=diary+of+surgeon+albigence+waldo&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CB0Q6AEwAGoVChMIhpXMcK4xwlVw4MNCh11AANAA#v=onepage&q=diary%20of%20surgeon%20albigence%20waldo&f=false
Joseph Plumb Martin at the Battle of Yorktown: http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6597
John Ferling, "One Hundred Days that Shook the World," Smithsonian 38 (2007): 44-54

October 22  Frontiers and alliances

Read …
"Logan's Lament" (1774): http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/nativeamericans/chieflogan.htm
Joseph Brant to Lord George Germain, 1776, http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/8071
Treaty with the Delawares, 1778: http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler/vol2/treaties/del0003.htm

*October 27*  Loyalism

Read …

... and two of the following:

October 29

Social change in the Revolutionary war

Read ...
“Rags”, 1778: http://www.teachushistory.org/american-revolution/resources/advertisement-rags
Massachusetts slaves petition for freedom, 1777: http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6237
Pennsylvania – An Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery, 1780, at: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/pennst01.asp
Petition of Cato to the Pennsylvania Legislature, 1781, http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5716
Memoir of Boston King: http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6615

... and two of the following:

*November 3*

The re-formation of government and politics

Read:
Pennsylvania Constitution, 1776: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/pa08.asp
New York Constitution, 1777: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/ny01.asp

November 5

The Articles of Confederation

Read:
Articles of Confederation, 1781: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/artconf.asp

*November 10*

Internal tensions in the 1780s

Read ...
Governor’s Proclamation, Sept. 1786: http://shaysrebellion.stcc.edu/shaysapp/artifact_trans.do?shortName=broadsije7now86&page=
Commendation for William Shepard, Feb. 1787:
Massachusetts General Court, Resolve that there is a Rebellion, Feb. 1787:
Excerpt from William Manning, The Key of Liberty (1799) on Shays's Rebellion, at

... and two of the following:

November 12  Creating the U.S. Constitution
Read:
Virginia Plan: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/vatexta.asp
New Jersey Plan: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/patexta.asp

*November 17*  Federalists and Anti-Federalists
Read:
Selections from The Federalist (1787):
No. 10: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed10.asp
No. 51: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed51.asp

November 19  Ratification and the Bill of Rights
Read:
Massachusetts opponents to ratifying the Constitution: http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6213
Ratification of the Constitution by Massachusetts, Feb. 1788:
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/ratma.asp
Ratification of the Constitution by New York, Jul. 1788:
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/ratny.asp
Pauline Maier, Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788 (2010), 255-291

November 24 and 26  Thanksgiving Break: no classes
*December 1*  Consequences of the American Revolution: Territorial

Read:
Report on Government for Western Territory, 1784:  
[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/jeffrep1.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/jeffrep1.asp)
Northwest Ordinance, 1787: [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/nworder.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/nworder.asp)
Peter S. Onuf, “Liberty, Development, and Union: Visions of the West in the 1780s”  
*William & Mary Quarterly* 43 (1986): 179-213

December 3  No class: work on research papers

December 8  Consequences of the American Revolution: Towards democracy?

Read ...
Benjamin Rush, *Thoughts upon Female Education* (1787):  

... and three of the following:
Linda K. Kerber, “‘I have don ... much to carrey on the warr’: Women and the Shaping of Republican Ideology after the American Revolution,” *Journal of Women’s History* 1 (1990): 231-243
Barbara Clark Smith, *The Freedoms We Lost: Consent and Resistance in Revolutionary America* (2010), 183-210

*December 10*  Consequences of the American Revolution: International

Read ...
Treaty of Paris, 1783: [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/paris.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/paris.asp)
George Washington, “Farewell Address” (1796):  
[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washing.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washing.asp)

... and two of the following:

Final examination: to be scheduled