

Virginia Western Community College

HIS 279

Age of American Revolution

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Examines the factors that led to the separation of the American Britain colonies from Great Britain. Covers the Revolutionary War, the problems faced by the revolutionary government, and postwar events that led to the adoption the United States Constitution.

This course introduces events leading to the American Revolution along with a comprehensive study of revolution and the aftermath for developing a nation. Topics include a comparison of British and American governmental laws, planning and implementing war strategies, socioeconomic, and cultural impact on a developing society.

Students will be introduced to useful skills for historical analysis and interpretation. Students will strengthen skills in interdisciplinary studies and national awareness.

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

Textbook:

Choose one of the Following:

Bobrick, Benson. Angel in the Whirlwind. New York: Penguin Books, 1997.

ISBN: 0-14-027500-2 **Top choice if in Print!

Or:

Alden, John, R. A History of the American Revolution. DaCapo Press (a reprint from Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.), 1969. ISBN: 978-0-306-80366-6

Or:

Countryman, Edward. The American Revolution. New York: Hill & Wang, 1985.

ISBN: 0-8090-0162-4

Highly Recommended:

Paine, Thomas. Common Sense and Related Writings. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins Pub., 2001. ISBN:

978-0-312-20148-7

Martin, Joseph Plumb. A Narrative of A Revolutionary Soldier. New York: Signet Classic, 2001. ISBN: 978-

0-451-52811-7

Other Required Materials:

The following supplementary materials are required:

None

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Recognize the importance of the Enlightenment on the development of an American identity and evaluate the importance of that influence on a growing sense of nationhood.
- Compare and contrast the political and social systems, economics, and religion of the various British colonies and evaluate their impact on an American identity.
- Examine the social, political, economic, religious, and military institutions of the British Empire and evaluate their impact on the colonies and the Atlantic world.
- Develop knowledge of the effort and means Great Britain uses in an attempt to control her colonies and force them to comply.
- Display comprehensive knowledge of the development of an early American sense of unification among the colonies.
- Trace the development of military strategy and building a national military unit from infancy.
- Examine the nature of war during the Eighteenth Century.
- Compare and contrast the impact of the revolution on: women; free Blacks; slaves; indentured servants; the wealthy; the laborers; and the poor.
- Evaluate the influence of the American sense of identity on the formation of a new nation and political system.
- Develop an understanding of the intricacies of developing a Constitution which protects and directs a diverse population.

Topical Description

The Development and Results of the Age of American Revolution:

1	Pre-Revolutionary Actions: Backgrounds of the populace in the colonies, influence of government (provincial & imperial) and royal governors, Bacon's Rebellion, Culpeper's Rebellion, Parson's Cause, Rights of Englishmen.
2	Imperial Colonial Relations: Proclamation of 1763; Currency Act; Stamp Act & its repeal; Townshend Acts; Virginia Resolves; Coercive Acts.
3	Philosophical Decisions: Impact of the Enlightenment on the Revolutionary process; Balance the demands of Equality v. that of Liberty, Capitalism and a division of labor, Religious tolerance and separation of church and state.

4	Propaganda & Decisions For Independence or Reconciliation: Does the ability to tax invoke an obligation for representation, Consequences: of a break with England; or staying the course and trying to be good subjects; A look at the options and the groups supporting those positions.
5	Survey of Both Sides Preparedness to make war before Battles: Advantages for the British, Advantages for the Colonies, Economics of war, Government leadership, an examination of intended uses of the military.
6	Battles of the American Revolution: Examine the various battles: strategy; elements of support; conditions of battlefield, soldiers, supplies and leadership.
7	Everyday life of the Soldier: Using the Martin book to impress upon the student the determination and conditions of the American revolutionary soldier.
8	Noncombatants and other Issues: A look at families and the impact of war; women's role at home; women who travel with the military; spies; punishment for troops and noncombatants; and the struggle of being in harm' way.
9	Slavery & The Black man in the Revolution: The role of the black slave during war; the role of the indentured servant during war; the role of the free black during war; and opportunities and struggles for all.
10	Problems Forming a Nation: America had been fighting for a theory of government, now must put the nuts and bolts together and make this theory work. Examine: political, economic; social & cultural; religious impacts on the forming of a new nation.
11	The Constitution: Forming of a new document to protect the rights of all while giving each the freedom to exercise those rights.

Notes to Instructors

None