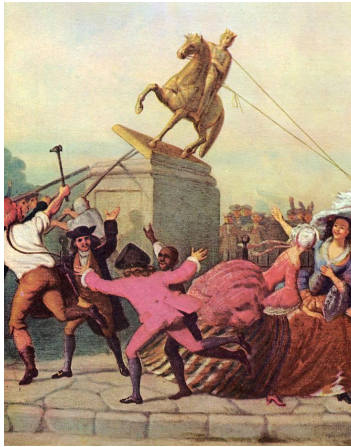


University of Pennsylvania

Department of History

History 610.301
Revolution to Republic:
An Historiographical Survey
Tuesdays,
1:30–4:30 p.m.,
McNeil Center Room 105
Spring Semester 2017



Prof. Daniel K. Richter
College Hall 309C
Office Hours: Mondays,
2:00–4:00, or by appt.
309C College Hall
☎ 215-898-9251
✉ drichter@history.upenn.edu

This course surveys the historiography of the period of the U.S. Revolution and Early Republic, looking backward its development during the twentieth century but with a particular emphasis on writings from the early twenty-first century, which is turning out to be a particularly vibrant period in scholarship.

Suitably for a course on a period of great peril and struggle, we will be reading a hefty list of recent monographs. Many are not yet available in paperback, and while it would be ideal if everyone could purchase each of them, the financial implications would be dire. No bookstore orders have been placed, on the assumption that some combination of internet purchases, library reading, and interlibrary loans will be the most economically viable option. All readings not available on-line have been placed on reserve at Rosengarten, and one or two copies of each are on a dedicated shelf in the McNeil Center library.

Once or twice during the semester, each seminar member is expected to lead a weekly discussion, with responsibility for posing a few questions designed to help the group explore themes from the week's readings.

The major written work for the semester will be a 5,000–6,000 word historiographical essay on a specialized topic, chosen in consultation with the professor. These papers can go in many different directions depending on individual intellectual goals, but should be conceptualized with the needs of the broader seminar in mind. A project statement and bibliography is due for circulation to the seminar on 19 February, with brief oral presentations to the seminar on February 21. First drafts of papers will be due on 1 May. Plan on at least one round of substantive revisions thereafter.

An original research project can be an alternative to the historiographical essay. This option needs to be arranged very early in the semester.

SEMINAR MEETING AND READING SCHEDULE

17 January: Introduction

Read:

Edward G. Gray and Jane Kamensky, "Introduction: American Revolutions," in Gray and Kamensky, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of the American Revolution* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013), 1–14. (On-line edition available through Franklin.)

24 January The Progressives and the Imperial School

Choose one of these:

J. Franklin Jameson, *The American Revolution Considered as a Social Movement* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1926, 1967). (On-line: HathiTrust.)

Merrill Jensen, *The Articles of Confederation; An Interpretation of the Social-Constitutional History of the American Revolution, 1774–1781* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1940 and subsequent editions).

Carl Lotus Becker, *The History of Political Parties in the Province of New York, 1760–1776* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1909, 1960). (On-line: HathiTrust.)

Charles A. Beard, *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States* (New York: Macmillan, 1913 and subsequent editions). (On-line: HathiTrust.)

And choose one of these:

Charles McLean Andrews, *The Colonial Background of the American Revolution: Four Essays in American Colonial History* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1924 and subsequent editions).

Lawrence Henry Gipson, *The Coming of the Revolution* (New York: Harper, 1954). (On-line: HathiTrust.)

31 January: Some Neo-Whigs

Read:

Bernard Bailyn, *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1967).

Edwin G. Burrows and Michael Wallace, "The American Revolution: The Ideology and Psychology Of National Liberation," *Perspectives in American History* 6 (1972), 167–306

Daniel T. Rodgers, "Republicanism: The Career of a Concept," *Journal of American History* 79 (1992), 11-38.

7 February: Some Neo-Neo-Progressives

Choose two of these:

Gary B. Nash, *The Unknown American Revolution: The Unruly Birth of Democracy and the Struggle to Create America* (New York: Viking, 2005).

Woody Holton, *Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2007).

T. H. Breen, *American Insurgents, American Patriots: The Revolution of the People* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2010).

14 February: Some Neo-Consumers

Choose one of these:

T.H. Breen, *The Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped American Independence* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004).

Steven C. Bullock, *Tea Sets and Tyranny: The Politics of Politeness in Early America* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016).

And read:

Steve Pincus, *The Heart of the Declaration: the Founders' Case for an Activist Government* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016).

21 February: Some Greene; Some Bibliographies

Read:

Jack P. Greene, *The Constitutional Origins of the American Revolution* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011).

Project statements and bibliographies due for precirculation to the seminar, Sunday, February 19, 5:00 p.m.

28 February: Some Loser-Lovers

Read:

Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy, *The Men Who Lost America : British Leadership, the American Revolution, and the Fate of the Empire* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2013).

Maya Jansenoff, *Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World* (New York: Knopf, 2011).

7 March: Some Spring Break**14 March: Two Neo-Syntheses with Similar Titles**

Read:

Patrick Griffin, *America's Revolution* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012).

or:

Alan Taylor, *American Revolutions: A Continental History* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2016).

21 March: Some Other Perspectives

Choose one of these:

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, *This Violent Empire: The Birth of an American National Identity* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011).

Barbara Clark Smith, *The Freedoms We Lost: Consent and Resistance in Revolutionary America* (New York: New Press, 2010).

And choose one of these:

Jill Lepore, *Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin* (New York: Knopf, 2013).

Rosemarie Zaggari, *Revolutionary Backlash: Women and Politics in the Early Republic* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007).

28 March: Some Outside? Perspectives

Read:

Kathleen DuVal, *Independence Lost: Lives on the Edge of the American Revolution* (New York: Random House, 2015).

And choose one of these:

Colin G. Calloway, *The American Revolution in Indian Country: Crisis and Diversity in Native American Communities* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995).

Claudio Saunt, *West of the Revolution: An Uncommon History of 1776* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2014).

4 April: The Greatest of the Neo-Whigs?

Read:

Gordon S. Wood, *The Creation of the American Republic, 1776–1787* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1969).

“Forum: The Creation of the American Republic, 1776–1787,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d ser., 44 (1987), 549–640.

11 April: Some Neo-Federalists?

Read:

Max M. Edling, *A Revolution in Favor of Government: Origins of the U.S. Constitution and the Making of the American State* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003).

Eliga H. Gould, *Among the Powers of the Earth: The American Revolution and the Making of a New World Empire* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2012).

18 April: Some Localists; Two Founderists

Choose one of these:

Bethel Saler, *The Settlers' Empire: Colonialism and State Formation in America's Old Northwest* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015).

Brian Phillips Murphy, *Building the Empire State: Political Economy in the Early Republic* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015).

Andrew Shankman, *Crucible of American Democracy: The Struggle to Fuse Egalitarianism and Capitalism in Jeffersonian Pennsylvania* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2004).

Andrew M. Schocket, *Founding Corporate Power in Early National Philadelphia* (Dekalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2007).

And read:

Annette Gordon-Reed and Peter S. Onuf, “Most Blessed of the Patriarchs”: *Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination* (New York: Liveright, 2016).

25 April: Some Still Newer Directions?

Read selected essays from:

Patrick Spero and Michael Zuckerman, eds., *The American Revolution Reborn* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016).

Brief Oral Reports on Historiographical Essays (Drafts due 1 May, 5:00 p.m.).