

**Hist 75000 Spring 2017      Era of the American Revolution**  
**Th 2-4pm GC**  
**Prof. David Waldstreicher    [dwaldstreicher@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:dwaldstreicher@gc.cuny.edu)**

**\*PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS [January 3, 2017]\***

**Assignments:** One short paper due 3/2, a brief paper proposal (3/23) with bibliography, a final paper (5/22) of 12-15 pages on a topic of your choice. Options will include an historiographical review essay, a research proposal, or an evaluation of a museum exhibit or a major work not included on the syllabus.

**Schedule of Classes and Readings.**

(\* = available on Blackboard or as an electronic book through the Graduate Center Library)

**2/2 Introduction: Revolutions in History, Revolutions in America**

\*David A. Bell, "Inglorious Revolutions," *The National Interest* (Jan.-Feb. 2014)

\*David Armitage, "Every Great Revolution is a Civil War" in Keith Michael Baker and Dan Edelstein, *Scripting Revolutions* (2015), 57-68.

**2/9 Revisions & Cycles of Interpretation: What was the American Revolution in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century??**

\*Arthur M. Schlesinger, "The American Revolution Reconsidered," *Political Science Quarterly* 34 (1919), 61-78.

\*Charles McLean Andrews, "The American Revolution: An Interpretation," *American Historical Review* 31 (Jan. 1926), 219-32

\*Lawrence Henry Gipson, "The American Revolution as the Aftermath of the Great War for Empire, 1754-1763," *Political Science Quarterly* 65 (March 1950), 86-104

\*Edmund S. Morgan, "The American Revolution: Revisions in Need of Revising," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ser., 14 (Jan. 1957), 3-15, also in his *The Challenge of the American Revolution* (1976), 43-59.

\*Gordon S. Wood, "Rhetoric and Reality in the American Revolution," *WMQ* 3<sup>rd</sup> Ser. 23 (Jan. 1966), 3-32, also in his *The Idea of America* (2011), 25-56.

\*Alfred F. Young, "American Historians Confront the Transforming Hand of Revolution" [1995], in Alfred F. Young and Gregory H. Nobles, *Whose American Revolution Was It? Historians Interpret the Founding*, 13-133.

\*Jack P. Greene, "The American Revolution," *American Historical Review* (Feb. 2000), 93-102.

\*Edward Countryman, "Indians, the Colonial Order, and the Social Significance of the American Revolution," *William and Mary Quarterly* 53 (1996), 342-62.

**2/16 The Battle Unroyal**

Read Gordon S. Wood, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution* (1992) OR

Gary B. Nash, *The Unknown American Revolution* (2005); skim the other volume.

**2/23 What was (an English) Revolution?**

Steve Pincus, *1688: The First Modern Revolution*

\*Craig Yirush, Introduction and Chapter 2, "The Glorious Revolution in America," *Settlers, Liberty and Empire: The Roots of Early American Political Theory, 1675-1775* (2010), 1-26, 51-81.

### **3/2 Africans and Americans in Revolt**

Gerald Horne, *The Counter-Revolution of 1776*

G. Nobles, "Redefining Freedom in the Revolution," *Whose American Revolution Was it?*, 144-72.

\*Assignment due: class presentation and paper (4-5 pp.). Read "era of the Revolution" portions of a textbook or synthesis of US history or textbook; where if anywhere are these interpretations – whig, progressive, imperial, "neo" - in it?

### **3/9 The Political Economy of Empire and Dissent**

Jane T. Merritt, *The Trouble with Tea: The Politics of Consumption in the Eighteenth Century Global Economy* (2017)

Staughton Lynd and David Waldstreicher, "Free Trade, Sovereignty, and Slavery: Toward an Economic Interpretation of American Independence," *WMQ* 68 (Oct. 2011), 597–630

Steve Pincus, "1776: The Revolt Against Austerity," *New York Review of Books Blog*, May 20, 2015, <http://www.nybooks.com/daily/2015/05/20/1776-revolt-against-austerity/>

### **3/16 Mobilizing →Paper proposal due**

Benjamin L. Carp, *Rebels Rising: Cities and the American Revolution*

### **3/23 Fighting: Revolutionary War as (Imperial) Civil War**

Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy, *The Men who Lost America: British Leadership, the American Revolution, and the Fate of Empire*

John W. Shy, "The Military Conflict Considered as a Revolutionary War" in Stephen G. Kurtz and James H. Hutson eds., *Essays on the American Revolution* (1973), 121-56; also in Shy, *A People Numerous and Armed*

Aaron Sullivan, "Uncommon Cause: The Challenges of Disaffection in Revolutionary Pennsylvania" in Patrick Spero and Michael Zuckerman eds., *The American Revolution Reborn* (2016), 48-67.

### **3/30 Revolution, War, Nationhood: Controlling the Story**

\*Robert G. Parkinson, *The Common Cause: Creating Race and Nation in the American Revolution*

T. H. Breen, "Ideology and Nationalism on the Eve of the American Revolution: Revisions Once More in Need of Revising," *Journal of American History* 84 (June 1997): 13–39

### **4/6 South and West of the Revolution – or not**

Kathleen DuVal, *Independence Lost: Lives of the Edge of the American Revolution*

G. Nobles, "Facing the Revolution from Indian Country," *Whose American Revolution Was It*, 172-92

### **4/27 The Constitution: The Great National Discussion Continues**

Joseph J. Ellis, *The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution*

Woody Holton, *Unruly Americans and the Making of the Constitution*

Alfred F. Young, "Conservatives, the Constitution, and the Genius of the People," *Liberty Tree: Ordinary People and the American Revolution* (2006), 183-214

\*Roundtable, *Beard at 100* [Edling, Holton, Slauter, Waldstreicher, Bernstein, Cutterham], *American Political Thought* 2 (Fall 2013), 259-316.

G. Nobles, "Reconsidering Class in the Revolution" in *Whose American Revolution Was it?*, 192-224

**5/4 The Revolution Settlement: What, and Who, was a Citizen?**

\* Douglas Bradburn, *The Citizenship Revolution: Politics and the Creation of the American Union, 1774-1804*

**5/11 The Revolution Settlement: Generations, Gender, and Women**

\*Susan Klepp, *Revolutionary Conceptions: Women, Fertility, and Family Limitation in America, 1760-1820*

\*Ruth H. Bloch, "The American Revolution, Wife-Beating, and the Emergent Value of Privacy," *Early American Studies* 5:2 (Fall 2007), 223-51.

G. Nobles, "Writing Women into the Revolution," *Whose American Revolution*, 224-55

**5/18 Memory and History**

Andrew Schocket, *Fighting over the Founders: How We Remember the American Revolution*