

HIST 316 – AMERICAN REVOLUTION & FEDERALIST ERA

SYLLABUS

Instructor: Edward R. Crowther, Ph.D.
Email: ercrowth@adams.edu
Phone: 719-587-7466
Fax: 719-587-7176
Address: Dept. of History, Government, Philosophy
Adams State College
208 Edgemont Blvd.
Alamosa, CO 81102

COURSE DELIVERY:

Print-Based Correspondence

CREDIT HOURS:

Three Semester Hours

COURSE MATERIALS:

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use **Section Number: 1018** to order books from Bookstore site.

Required Textbooks:

John Ferling, *A Leap in the Dark: The Struggle to Create the American Republic*, Oxford University Press, ISBN 0195176006

Richard Brown, *Major Problems in the Era of the American Revolution, 1760-1791* (2nd edition) Houghton Mifflin, ISBN 0395903440

MONOGRAPHS¹

Carol Berkin, *Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for American Independence*, Vintage, ISBN 1400075327

Joseph J. Ellis, *American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies in the Founding of the Republic*.
Vintage, ISBN 9780307276452

¹ A monograph is a scholarly book on a single subject or an aspect of it.

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

An upper-division survey of the period from 1763 to 1801, with particular attention to the American Revolution, the Confederation, the Constitutional Convention, and the administrations of Presidents Washington and Adams.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will:

- Identify historical content in the context of the times for the period covered in this course.
- Knowledgeably discuss the significance of major themes, key concepts, and identifiable terms as related to the social, political, and intellectual history of the period, as demonstrated through the student's writing and examinations.
- Demonstrate appropriate historical writing and analysis skills by producing acceptable essays on the two assigned monographs and in the term paper.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **READING ASSIGNMENTS.** The course is divided into three units. The student should read the text as detailed in the lessons below. Keep in mind that you are reading in order to acquire a framework on which you can view this period of history in terms of key content and identifiable terms. Rather than being expected to memorize dates of events, you will be asked to demonstrate that you have developed an understanding not only of what happened, but of the overall significance of that event to the historical period. In addition to top line events (such as might appear in newspaper headlines of the time), you are reading for social, political, and intellectual content. What key concepts or core ideas are prevalent at the time? How are these ideas influencing social and political history? What are the key conflicts taking place? Who are the players? What are the core ideas or concepts underlying these conflicts? The **KEY TERMS** that you should pay attention to in each chapter of each unit are listed in the study guide.

At the end of each unit of study are three or four essay questions. You should write out your answers to each one of these questions, making sure that your answers are defensible, that is, that you can support the argument you are making utilizing specific citations from the historical record. Please refer to the rubric at the end of this syllabus for guidance on how to construct an essay response based on (a.) structure, (b.) evidence, and (c.) quality of writing.

YOUR UNIT EXAMINATION WILL CONSIST OF ONE OF THESE FOUR ESSAY QUESTIONS, PLUS A LIST OF EIGHT KEY TERMS. YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO CHOOSE FIVE OF THE EIGHT TERMS

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THAT APPEAR ON THE EXAM. YOU WILL BE ASKED TO EXPLAIN EACH TERM AND IDENTIFY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EACH TO THE HISTORICAL PERIOD.

2. **EXAMINATIONS.** There are three units of study in this course, with an examination at the end of each unit. As stated above, each examination will consist of a list of eight identification terms, from which you will choose five. The examination will also include one of the three or four essay questions for which you have already prepared a response.

Each exam is worth 50 points. The essay is worth 35 points (70%). The identification items (significant terms) are worth 3 points each or 15 points total (30%).

The **FINAL EXAMINATION** will be included in the exam for Unit Three and will be worth an additional 50 points. The comprehensive examination section will include an essay question drawn from one of the three units of study (and for which you have previously prepared) and will be worth 35 points. There will be an additional list of identification items drawn from the entire course of study. Again, there will be eight items on this list, from which you will choose five. The comprehensive identification items are also worth three points each for a total of 15 points.

3. ESSAYS ON MONOGRAPHS. Each student shall craft a five-page essay in response to the following questions: (These essays should be typed-double spaced, no more than 12 point font, one-inch margins all around).

- 1) Having read Berkin, *Revolutionary Mothers*, in what ways did women participate in and experience the American Revolution? Did this encounter make the revolution, revolutionary? **(Due at the end of Unit One.)**
- 2) Having read Ellis, *American Creation*, write an accurate and insightful essay on the following: Historians are fond of the idea of contingency: historical events often could have turned out differently than they did. How is contingency illustrated in the seven episodes surveyed by Joseph Ellis? Why was the course taken that was taken? **(Due at the end of Unit Two.)**

4. TERM PAPER. Each student shall draft a term paper, addressing an essential aspect of the era of the American Revolution. It should contain a minimum of ten pages of text and use the endnote citation form described in Turabian, *Manual for Writers*. These must make wholesale use of available primary sources and address a controversy in the scholarship in the era of the American Revolution. You must obtain my informal

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approval for a topic and submit a prospectus describing what you are going to argue and what source materials you will use prior to submitting your final paper.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Grade Distribution:

Test one	50 points
Test two	50 points
Final	100 points
Book essay one	25 points
Book essay two	25 points
Term Paper	<u>50 points</u>
Total points	300 points

Scale:

90-100%	A	270 – 300 points
80-89%	B	240 – 269 points
70-79%	C	210 – 239 points
60-69%	D	180 – 210 points
59% and below	F	Below 180 points

ADA STATEMENT:

Students who need special accommodation to complete this class should contact the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs, 719.587.7221 as soon as possible.