

Master Syllabus

Professor James J. Kirschke

Spring 2009

Villanova University

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY ERA: English 4540-001
3 credits Classroom: B3068 Class Meets: T and R, 11:30-12:45

CRN 34120

DrK's office: B 3043 email: james.kirschke@villanova.edu
Office telephone (610) 519-7330
Office Hours: T & R: 12:50-1: 50

WRITING ENRICHED

This course qualifies as an upper level English Department course. And for English Majors, this course also satisfies the requirement for an American Literature Course Before 1900.

Required Texts:

1. Mulford, Carla, Introduction and Jesse Lemisch, ed. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND OTHER WRITINGS BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN. ISBN: 10:0451528107 or 13: 978-0451528100
2. Peterson, Merrill, ed. THE PORTABLE THOMAS JEFFERSON. ISBN: 0140150803
3. McCullough, David. 1776. ISBN: 0743226720
4. Shuffleton, Frank, ed. THE LETTERS OF JOHN AND ABIGAIL ADAMS. 0-14-243711-5
5. Babits, Lawrence E. "A DEVIL OF A WHIPPING": THE BATTLE OF COWPENS. ISBN: 080784926x

Course Description:

"All history is modern history"
Wallace Stevens. "Adagia."

This course will focus on reading, discussing and writing about some of the most interesting and instructive lives and writings of the American Revolutionary Era. The ARE shall emphasize some of the major issues and writings from the fertile period c. 1750-1820. We shall pay especial attention to the major thematic statements, political and social attitudes, and stylistic methods of some of the most brilliant Founders from this keystone era. In the course of our studies, we should learn a great deal about the late Colonial, Revolutionary and Early National Periods. These reflections should also help us to understand better the current world in which we live.

Historical personages mainly to be studied are Franklin, Jefferson, and Abigail and John Adams, as well George Washington and Gouverneur Morris. In addition, we shall devote fairly careful study to the beginnings of the Revolution and to the ending of it. Thus, we will peruse and discuss David McCullough's narrative, 1776, as well as Lawrence Babits' history of the battle of Cowpens.

Our class will also have a city trip to the area known as Independence Hall, Philadelphia. This course should be academically challenging and richly rewarding.

Outcomes:

If you do your assignments with assiduity, and pay attention carefully in class, you should emerge from this course with a deeper understanding of the historical roots of the United States. You should also finish ARE with a greater appreciation of the accomplishments of the major American founders from the period 1750-1820. And the course may provide you with some additional insights into contemporary American, and its relationships with the rest of the world.

Methodology:

Dr. K will lecture, but only to the extent necessary. The course will mainly combine lecture with Socratic interaction.

Academic Honesty:

You must do your own work. If you were to borrow someone else's notes, writings or ideas, you should give them proper credit. In other words, you should cite that other person's work the same ways you would expect someone else to cite your efforts and ideas. Your aim in doing all of your assignments should be scrupulous honesty. If you cheat, then you fail the assignment.

With one possible exception, your cell phones must be turned off in class. No text messaging will be allowed during class. And no eating will be allowed in class.

Course requirements:

I. Class Participation:

Class attendance is very important in this course. If you do not attend class, you cannot obtain a good grade in CP. And if you are excessively absent—more than four absences during the semester--your grades on your quizzes, on any group we might have, and on the final project will suffer greatly. Thus, you should show up for class having already read the assignments. This way, when we discuss the relevant assignments in class, you will have perused and pondered the topics in advance, and will be prepared to discuss them with intelligence.

Should we do Group, this exercise will be explained in advance. Any Group work will be factored into your CP grade. And students may be asked to give oral or written reports on their readings. Should these be assigned, they will factor into your CP grade.

II. Mid-Term Quiz

III. City Trip and Journal entry for same (there will be a full prep for this entire assignment)

IV. Research Project: 12-15 double-spaced, typescript pages. Final due date, T, April 22. The major prep for this paper will be January 22; on this date Outlining and Outline Critiquing will also be covered.

A. This paper will be preceded by a 3-5 page outline of the topic: OL due date for Dr.K: R, April 10.

B. After the OL has been submitted and returned, your draft Term Paper must be exchanged and marked by a fellow or sister student. This marked up paper must be submitted along with your finally revised paper.

Your research topic must be discussed and cleared w. DrK, via email, at least two weeks before the OL is submitted; in other words, the TP topic must be cleared by R, March 26. You are strongly urged to hand in these projects as soon after you clear the topic, peruse

your marked and returned OL, write your draft, receive back the exchange perusal, and revise the Term Paper.

There will be at least a full period of prep for these assignments. The preps will include lectures on academic honesty, including careful and appropriate documentation.

*If any of these assignments are more than 48 hours late, without a legitimate excuse, you will lose one full letter grade from the grade you would otherwise receive for this assignment.

V. Blue Book Essay Final Examination

Grading Requirements Explanation:

Each Element, I through V, will have a roughly equal grade.

Excused absences are generally only given for a death in the immediate family, serious illness, accompanied by a physician's note, or a note from the Dean's office; or else, for university related, necessary business.

Students w. disabilities who may need reasonable accommodations: you should contact asap: nancy.mott@villanova.edu or 95636. You should also check in with Dr.K. on the subject right away. Any information communicated to Dr.K. on this matter will remain confidential.

NB: The Writing Center can be an important asset for this course.

Grade break-out:

A 100-96	C 69-65
A- 95-90	C- 64-60
B+ 89-85	D+ 59-55
B 84-80	D 54-50
B- 79-75	D- 49-44
C+ 74-70	F 43 and below

Approximate Course Schedule:

January 13: Course Intro and Syllabus Review; the Importance of the Course

January 15: Intro to Revolutionary Era; c. Thirteen Major Causes of the Revolution;

Begin doing the BF readings in Lemisch and Mulford text.

January 20: Intro BF (contrast w. crimped bottle cap folks), including BF Primary and Secondary Bibliography

Paper writing intro; D.E.A.N: 4 Forms of Discourse in Prose; Outlining and Outline Critique Methodology; Parts of most papers

January 22: BF discussions continue; c. 11 Elements of Narration

9 Major Schools of Literary Criticism:

1. Biographical (2 legs)
2. Sociological
3. Historical
4. Psychological
5. Formalistic
6. Archetypal
7. Mythological
8. Moral
9. Interdisciplinary

January 27: BF: Front matter and AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

Begin TJ Readings

January 29: Discuss BF assignments after AUTOBIOGRAPHY

February 3: Intro to TJ, including primary and secondary bibliography

8 Traditional Topics of Rhetoric (possible hand-out)

7 Types of History:

1. Domestic
2. Cultural
3. Political
4. Military
5. Event History
6. Sociological
7. Economic

February 5: Discuss the following TJ readings: SUMMARY VIEW and NOTES ON...VA;

February 10: TJ discussion pp. 233-251, 290-300, 305-321, 325-327, 332-357

February 12: MTQ Prep;
Bring 8 Topics of Rhetoric hand-out to class; TJ discussion: pp. 346, 349-353, 358-373, 380-388, 390-398

February 17: City Trip and City Journal Prep

TJ discussion: 400-412, 414-415, 423-440, 442, 444, 453-466

February 19: TJ pp. 470-474, 477-479, 484-507, 511-513, 517, 544-547, and 564-567.

February 24: Intro Washington and his challenges; GW-Gouverneur Morris (possible hand-out); "Great but Neglected... ." hand-out;

February 26: Mid-Term Quiz

Mid-term break

March 10: Roster for April 4 city trip.

Intro McCullough; discuss 1776 through c. p. 112. Revolutionary War Biblio, including Higginbotham, Mackesy and Ward; REBELS AND REDCOATS; review revised syllabus; review and return MTQs.

March 12: prep for Research Project; Discuss 1776 through c. page 197;

March 17: Discuss last third of McCullough. Detailed City Trip Prep, including Journal details.

- Necessary venues to visit on City Trip: 1. Independence Hall complex, including Congress Hall, if possible*;
2. Franklin Court, including Print Shop, if possible;
3. City Tavern for lunch; and
4. Portrait Gallery on South side of Chestnut Street, between 4th and 3rd.

*Tickets are required in advance for this venue; and DrK is attempting to reserve 30 tickets for this purpose.

March 19: Intro Adams family; Term paper topic clearance date

March 24: Discuss Shuffleton. ADAMS. Intro to page 172.

March 26: Shuffleton. ADAMS. pp. 172-329; Term paper Outlines due

March 31: Shuffleton. ADAMS. pp. 330-414. TP OLs returned; and discussion of same.

April 2: Miscellaneous Revolutionary material

April 4: City Trip date

April 7: Intro to the Campaign in the South

Easter Break

April 14: Optimal date for Term Paper student exchange to be completed. Miscellaneous course material; Discuss Babits through p. 80 by today..

April 16: Discuss Babits.pp. 81 through 136.

April 21: Babits. Pages 137 through end: Term Paper due date.

April 23: Final Exam prep; possible release time c. 30 minutes

April 28: Deemed Day; no class

April 30: Last class day; course summation; and course evaluation

Final Exam period: Sa, May 2 through May 8