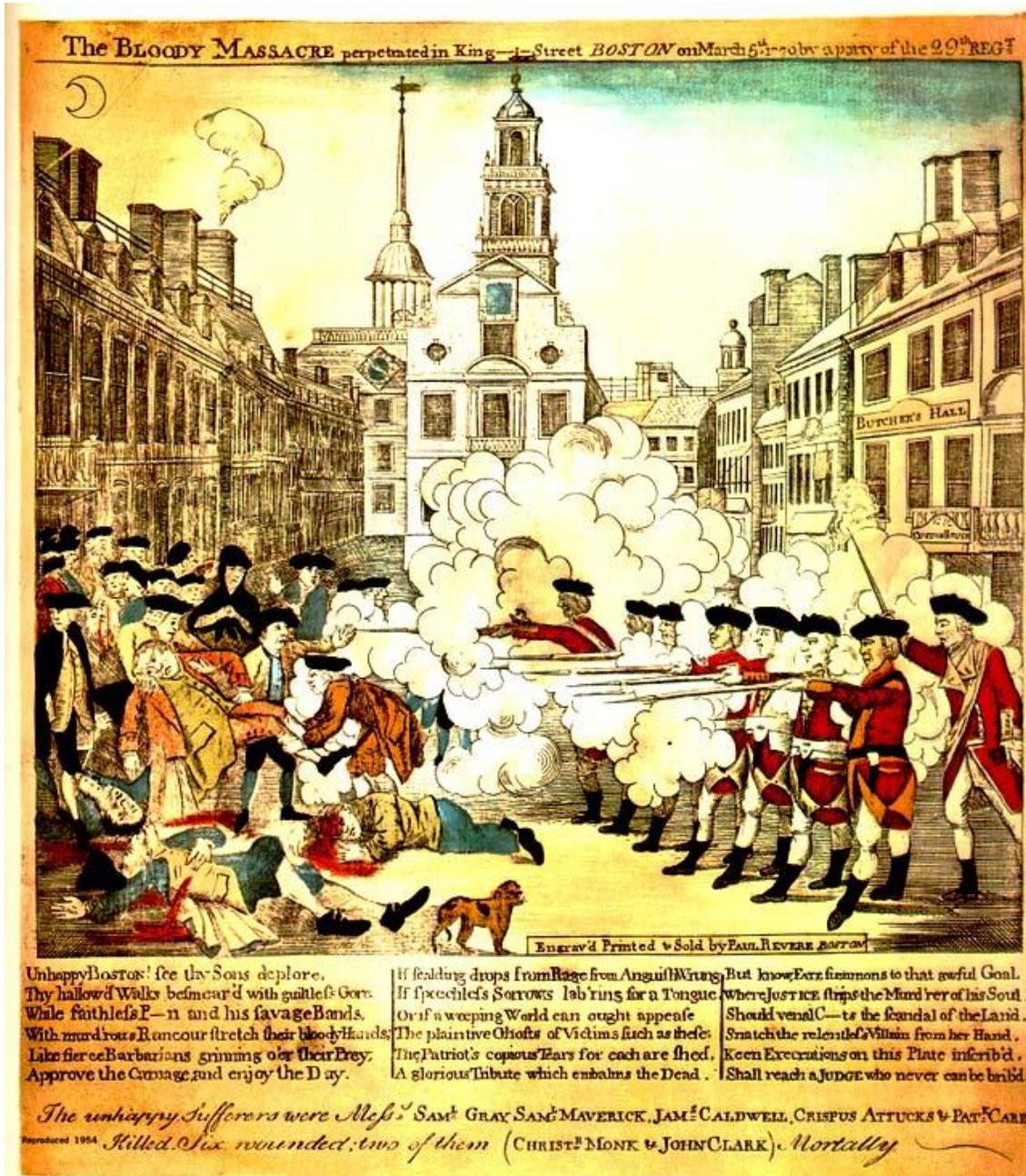


The American Revolution (512:301)  
 Tuesday, Thursday 6:10 pm - 7:30 pm  
 Paul G. E. Clemens  
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The American Revolution continues to shape the way Americans think about government, rights, violence, and war, and the way the rest of the world thinks about the United States. This course charts the creation of the American Republic from the French and Indian War to the formation of a new national government under the Constitution. We focus primarily on the Revolution itself: its causes, its larger Atlantic context, the way it was fought, and its consequences for the many peoples of America.

Students debate what happened at the Boston Massacre of 1770 and consider what the Bill of Rights meant to those who drafted it. We look at selected scenes from film versions of the

events of this era: *The Last of the Mohicans* (for its depiction of the Fort William Henry massacre); *Drums Along the Mohawk* (that captures the terror on the New York frontier during the 1777 raid by British troops and their Iroquois allies); *Mary Silliman's War* (a recreation of the life of a Connecticut farm family during the war); *The Crossing* (both for Jeff Daniels's portrayal of George Washington and for what it tells us about the early days of the war); and *The Patriot* (that depicts the battle of Cowpens). We will also consider the relationship of the American Revolution to the other monumental hemispheric revolution - that in Haiti.

Reading include a revolutionary war soldier's diary and the writings of Tom Paine. There will be a mid-term, a final, a paper, a film history journal, several short written assignments, and required discussion participation. Students can earn extra credit by visiting and reviewing a national or state park that depicts events of the Revolutionary War.

**Books to be Purchased** Rutgers Barnes & Noble has received a book order. The Amazon price for new books is given below. Used copies are available for all but Taylor at substantial savings.. . .

Alan Taylor, *American Revolutions: A Continental History, 1750-1804* (W.W. Norton, 2016) ISBN: 978-0393082814. Amazon.com price: \$25.19 (Kindle \$19.83).

Ian K. Steele, *Betrayals: Fort William Henry and the "Massacre"* (Oxford University Press 1990). ISBN: 978-0195084269. Amazon.com price \$22.15 (Kindle \$9.99)

Thomas P. Slaughter, *Common Sense and Related Writings: Thomas Paine* (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000). ISBN: 978-0312201487. Amazon.com price \$21.75.

Joseph Plumb Martin, *Narrative of a Revolutionary Soldier: Some of the Adventures, Dangers, and Sufferings of Joseph Plumb Martin* (Signet Classics, 2010). ISBN: 978-0451531582 (or any other edition). Amazon.com price \$6.95. (Kindle: \$0.99)

Judith Van Buskirk, *Generous Enemies: Patriots and Loyalists in Revolutionary New York* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002). ISBN: 978-0812218220. Amazon.com price: \$23.23  
**OR** Lawrence Babits, *A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens* (University of North Carolina Press, 1998). ISBN: 978-0807849262. Amazon.com price \$16.35. (Kindle: \$15.53).

Jack N. Rakove, *Declaring Rights: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford/St. Martin's, 1997). ISBN: 978-0312137342. Amazon.com price: \$21.75.