

History Seminar: The American Revolution



The American Revolution continues to shape the way we think about our national identity and the place of the United States in a globalized world. This course allows you to research and write about some aspect of the causes, fighting, consequences, memory and commemoration of the American Revolution (which thus includes the framing and ratification of the Constitution). Each of you will write a well-documented essay of about 20 pages that deals with an aspect of the history of the era of the American Revolution. Rather than an assigned book(s), we will read essays and book chapters posted on Canvas) that help you select a topic and contextualize the topic on which you write. Recently students have written about the propaganda cartoons of the era, the battle over ratification in the constitution in particular states, military discipline during the Revolution, the experiences of ordinary soldiers, women's role during this period, the debate over enslavement and the response of the enslaved to the Revolution, and many other topics. The semester concludes with two weeks devoted to student PowerPoint presentation on their paper topics.