Introduction
As we approach the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, this course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the origins, character, and results of the American Revolution, as well as engaging the enduring significance of its memory in contemporary American life – why do we choose to remember the American Revolution in ways that occlude its divisive and bloody events? The course explores many of the key themes of this critical period in American history: the rise of opposition to Britain, the nature of the Revolutionary War, and the republican experiment that followed the Treaty of Paris in 1783. The course emphasizes student interaction with documentary evidence from the Revolutionary era, along with up-to-date scholarly interpretations with an eye toward analyzing the comparative experiences of women and men, "everyday people" and famous leaders, Native Americans, African-Americans, and those who opposed the Revolution. Course work will include analysis of contemporary public memory of the Revolution, participation in discussion sections, two examinations, and a research essay.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- understand the significance of the American Revolution to national and world history
- debunk popular myths about the American Revolution
- comprehend the role of the Revolutionary War in the emergence of the United States as a nation in the wider world
- compose convincing critical oral and written interpretations of primary documents, secondary scholarship, and public commemorations related to the American Revolution
- undertake preliminary historical research using library resources
- appreciate historical contingency and avoid explanations grounded on presumptions of inevitability

Requirements
Final grades in the course will be based on:
- class attendance/participation (primarily @ section meetings) (20%)
- ONE short essay (memorialization critique)(4-6pp.) (20%)
- ONE in-class prelim (15%)
- ONE research essay (8-10pp.) (25%)
- ONE final exam (date TBA) (20%)
**Required Readings** (available for purchase at the Cornell Store):
Brunsman/Silverman, *The American Revolution: A Reader*
Gould, *Among the Powers of the Earth*
Griffin, *America's Revolution*
Kiernan, *Revolutionary America: Sources and Interpretations*
Martin, ed., *Ordinary Courage*

**Course Policies**
Participation is evaluated on the basis of the degree to which a student makes meaningful contributions to class discussions and activities. This requires regular attendance at class meetings, and completion of required readings. Attendance will be taken at discussion section meetings, and each student's participation will also be assessed at those times. Students with more than three unexcused absences from discussion sections over the course of the semester will receive a participation grade of ZERO. Chronic lateness (i.e. more than four times during the course of the semester) to section meetings will result in the same penalty. Excused absences are typically granted in cases of documented medical and/or family emergencies. Extensions on written assignments can be negotiated with the professor provided the initial request is made no less than 48 hours in advance of the due date. Grades on late papers and assignments will be reduced by 1/3 grade for every 24 hours late (unless arrangements have been made no less than 48 hours prior to the due date). No assignments/papers more than 3 (three) days late will be accepted for grading in lieu of documented medical reasons or prior arrangements.

**Plagiarism:**
Plagiarism (defined as submitting another individual's work as your own and/or failing to cite sources properly) is a serious academic offense and will be dealt with according to University policies on academic dishonesty. Resist the temptation to turn in work that is not your own. "Cutting and pasting" from internet sites is easily detected. Individuals who plagiarize their papers may expect substantial academic penalties, up to and including a failing grade in the course and/or expulsion from the university. See [http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/aic.cfm](http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/aic.cfm).

Assigned reading will average 100-150pp./week; readings for a given class or section meeting are to be completed before that class or section meeting. FRI meetings will normally be run in "discussion" format, engaging readings assigned earlier in the week in addition to the specific assignment for that day. Read assignments carefully so that you can discuss them intelligently. Avoid passive reading practices such as "highlighting"; instead, take written notes with page references to improve your recall and to facilitate studying for exams and quizzes.

**Key to Readings**
[doc]: linked .pdf file under "Course Documents" tab on Blackboard site
[e-res]: linked e-reserve reading for course via Cornell Library homepage
[web]: website accessible under "External Links" button on course Blackboard site
Class Schedule

Week 1  **Introduction and Overview**
1. Wednesday 8/24  Welcome to History 2665
2. Friday 8/26  Discussion: Interpretations of the Revolution
   -Griffin, *AR*, ix-xv
   -Higginbotham, "American Revolution: Yesterday & Today" [e-res]
   -Ulrich, in Harvard Sampler [e-res]

Week 2  **Imperial Reorganization**
3. Monday 8/29  Colonial British American Society to 1750
   -Brunsman/Silverman, *ARR*, 3-22
   -Kierner, *RA*, 1-14
   -Gould, *APE*, 1-13
   -Griffin, *AR*, 7-30

4. Wednesday 8/31  The Seven Years' War in North America
   -Kierner, *RA*, 14-19
   -Gould, *APE*, 14-47
   -Griffin, *AR*, 1-5, 30-35

5. Friday 9/2  Discussion: The End of "Salutary Neglect," 1763
   -Brunsman/Silverman, *ARR*, 23-52
   -Kierner, *RA*, 24-37, 45-47
   -Griffin, *AR*, 36-61
   -Crowley, *Scenographica Americana* [web]

Week 3  **Colonial Reaction and Opposition**
6. Wednesday 9/7  Internal Challenges: Regulation, Resistance, and Riots
   -Brunsman/Silverman, *ARR*, 53-75
   -Kierner, *RA*, 47-84
   -Gould, *APE*, 79-110
   -Griffin, *AR*, 62-88
   -Kumamoto, Historical Origins of Terror in America [e-res]

7. Friday 9/9  Discussion: The Boston Massacre
   -Kierner, *RA*, 85-99
Week 4  Independence Declared
8. Monday 9/12  Bitter Tea, Quebec, and the Intolerable Acts
   -Brunsman/Silverman, *ARR*, 76-91
   -Kierner, *RA*, 100-111
   -Griffin, *AR*, 89-120
   -Abraham, "Mohawks, Mohocks, Hawkubites, Whatever" [web]

9. Wednesday 9/14  Lexington & Concord
   -Kierner, *RA*, 114-25
   -Griffin, *AR*, 121-44

10. Friday 9/16  Discussion: Declaring Independence: A Bridge Too Far?
    -Brunsman/Silverman, *ARR*, 114-22
    -Kierner, *RA*, 128-40
    -Gould, *APE*, 111-44

Week 5  The Revolutionary Consequences of War
11. Monday 9/19  The Continental Army from Lexington to Saratoga
    -Brunsman/Silverman, *ARR*, 123-38
    -Kierner, *RA*, 141-52, 154-59
    -Griffin, *AR*, 144-54
    -Martin, *OC*, ix-xii, 1-69

12. Wednesday 9/21  L'Alliance Française
    -Tudda, "A Messiah That Will Never Come" [e-res]

13. Friday 9/23  Discussion: British Strategy After 1778
    -Kierner, *RA*, 159-66, 170-80, 186-88
    -Griffin, *AR*, 162-90
    -Martin, *OC*, 70-110

Week 6  Revolutionary Consequences: The Loyalists and Native Americans
14. Monday 9/26  Who Were the Loyalists?
    -Brunsman/Silverman, *ARR*, 415-36
    -Kierner, *RA*, 110-112
    -Larkin, "What is a Loyalist?" [web]

15. Wednesday 9/28  First Americans and the Revolutionary War
    -Brunsman/Silverman, *ARR*, 346-65
    -Griffin, *AR*, 155-62

16. Friday 9/30  Discussion: Dr. Benjamin Church and the Question of Loyalty
    -Kiracofe, "Dr. Benjamin Church and the Dilemma of Treason" [e-res]
    -Dist/Kulikoff, "Was Dr. Benjamin Church a Traitor?" [web]
Week 7  Slaves and Spies in the American Revolution
17. Monday 10/3  The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution
   -Brunsman/Silverman, ARR, 92-113, 323-45
   -Kierner, RA, 40-45, 126-28, 221-26
   -Gould, APE, 48-78, 145-77
   -Hagist, "10 Remarkable Runaway Ads" [web]

18. Wednesday 10/5  IN-CLASS PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

19. Friday 10/7  Discussion: AMC's Turn
   -"Roundtable on AMC's 'Turn'" (Smith, Cole, Stoddard) [web]

Week 8  Women and Republican Families
20. Wednesday 10/12  The Revolutionary Experience of American Women
   -Brunsman/Silverman, ARR, 166-84
   -Kierner, RA, 152-54, 166-69, 180-83, 191-93
   -Murrow, "10 Amazing Women of the Revolutionary War" [web]
   -Griffin, "Stubborn Loyalists" [web]

21. Friday 10/14  Discussion: Were Women Winners or Losers of the Revolution?
   -Brunsman/Silverman, ARR, 364-92
   -Kierner, RA, 218-21, 235-36, 326-29, 336-41

Week 9  The Military Phase Concludes
22. Monday 10/17  The Continental Army from Saratoga to Yorktown
   -Kierner, RA, 188-91, 193-96
   -Martin, OC, 111-81

23. Wednesday 10/19  Effects of the Revolutionary War: North and South
   -Brunsman/Silverman, ARR, 139-65, 185-208
   -Kierner, RA, 183-85
   -Griffin, AR, 191-208

24. Friday 10/21  Discussion: Washington – Man and Myth
   -Brunsman/Silverman, ARR, 437-57
   -Kierner, RA, 341-44
   -Lengel, Invention of George Washington [e-res]
   -Wood, in George Washington Reconsidered [e-res]

Week 10  America under the Articles of Confederation
25. Monday 10/24  Peacetime Government
   -Brunsman/Silverman, ARR, 209-35
   -Kierner, RA, 197-217
   -Griffin, AR, 208-28
26. Wednesday 10/26  Organizing a Republican Empire: The Northwest Ordinance  
   -Brunsman/Silverman, ARR, 304-22  
   -Ostler, "Just and Lawful War as Genocidal War" [e-res]

27. Friday 10/28  Discussion: Shays's Rebellion, A Postwar Agrarian Insurrection  
   -Brunsman/Silverman, ARR, 282-303  
   -Kierner, RA, 240-41  
   -Shea, "A Little Rebellion" [e-res]  
   -Brown, "Shays's Rebellion" [e-res]

Week 11  The Constitution of 1787
28. Monday 10/31  The Perception of Instability  
   -Kierner, RA, 227-35, 236-40, 242-43  
   -Griffin, AR, 229-56

29. Wednesday 11/2  The Philadelphia Convention  
   -Brunsman/Silverman, ARR, 236-61  
   -Kierner, RA, 243-54

30. Friday 11/4  Discussion: Federalists vs. Antifederalists  
   -Kierner, RA, 255-85

Week 12  Launching a New Government
31. Monday 11/7  Did the Ideals of the Revolution Survive?  
   -Griffin, AR, 257-85

32. Wednesday 11/9  Ratification  
   -Estes et al, "Critical Forum on Maier, Ratification" [e-res]

33. Friday 11/11  Discussion: Originalism and the Second Amendment  
   -Rakove, in What Did the Constitution Mean to Early Americans? [e-res]  
   -Wills, in Whose Right to Bear Arms Did the Second Amendment Protect? [e-res]

Week 13  The Political Crisis of the 1790s
34. Monday 11/14  Party Politics in the 1790s  
   -Kierner, RA, 286-311

35. Wednesday 11/16  The Newly United States and Native American Nations  
   -Kierner, RA, 362-67  
   -Kokomoor, "Creeks, Federalists, and the Idea of Coexistence" [e-res]  
   -Pasley, "Midget on Horseback" [web]
36. Friday 11/18 Discussion: The "Revolution" of 1800
   - Kierner, RA, 312-26, 329-36, 345-62
   - Bellesiles, in Election of 1800 [e-res]
   - Cunningham, in History of American Presidential Elections [e-res]

Week 14 **Consequences of the American Revolution**

37. Monday 11/21 The American Revolution in a Wider World
   - Gould, APE, 178-218
   - Procknow, "How the British Won the Revolutionary War" [web]

Week 15 **More Consequences of the American Revolution**

38. Monday 11/28 Canada: The Other Country the Revolution Made
   - Kierner, RA, 367-75
   - Hatter, "The Narcissism of Petty Differences" [e-res]
   - Lennox, "A Northern Chorus" [web]

39. Wednesday 11/30 The American Revolution in American Memory
   - Kierner, RA, 376-404
   - Mulloy, "Liberty or Death" [e-res]
   - Ulrich, "How Betsy Ross Became Famous" [web]

40. Friday 12/2 Discussion: America Rocks!
   - Film clip, "Schoolhouse Rock: America Rocks!"
   - Jill Lepore, "Talk of the Past: No More Kings" [web]

**SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES**

9/14 - Memorialization Critique
10/5 - Prelim
10/17 - Research Essay Proposal
11/7 - Research Essay Abstract
11/21 – Research Essay Draft (optional)
12/2 - Research Essay
TBA – Final Examination