

Master Syllabus

Professor James J. Kirschke

Fall 2013

Villanova University

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY ERA: English 4540-001 CRN 23715
3 credits Classroom: B3040 Class Meets: M and W, 3:00-4:15

DrK's office: B 3043

Office Hours: M: 11:30-1:30

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. Seavey, Ormond, ed. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND OTHER WRITINGS BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN. ISBN: 978.0.19.955490.4
2. Shuffleton, Frank, ed. THE LETTERS OF JOHN AND ABIGAIL ADAMS. 0-14-243711-5
3. McCullough, David. 1776. ISBN: 0743226720
4. Peterson, Merrill, ed. THE PORTABLE THOMAS JEFFERSON. ISBN: 0140150803
5. Babits, Lawrence E. "A DEVIL OF A WHIPPING": THE BATTLE OF COWPENS. ISBN: 080784926x
6. Tonsetic. 1781: THE FINAL YEAR OF THE REVOLUTION. ISBN: 9781612000633
7. Kirschke, James J. GOUVERNEUR MORRIS: AUTHOR, STATESMAN AND MAN OF THE WORLD. Complimentary copy.
8. THE EASY WRITER. 4th edition.

Course Description:

“All history is modern history”
Wallace Stevens. “Adagia.”

In this course we shall read, discuss and write about some of the most interesting and instructive lives and writings of the American Revolutionary Era. The course shall emphasize the major issues and writings from the period. We shall also pay special attention to the thematic statements, political and social attitudes, and stylistic methods of the germane American authors from this era. Our reflections on our readings and discussions should also somewhat help us better understand the current world in which we live.

Historical personages mainly to be studied are Abigail and John Adams, Franklin, Jefferson, Gouverneur Morris and George Washington. For the Revolutionary War, we will focus mainly on two areas; namely, its roots and beginnings and its concluding years. By means of our perusal of the primary literary record and reliable secondary sources, we should learn a lot about this foundational period in American history. Our course will also have an educationally enriching City Trip to the Independence Hall area of Philadelphia.

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 c. 1750-1814.

The course may also provide you with some additional insights into contemporary America, as well as its relationships with the rest of the world. ARE could furthermore help you to understand better the process of writing clear and eloquent prose.

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 other scholars'

work or works 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. If you cheat a second time, you fail the course.

Academic Comportment:

With one student exception, your cell phones must be turned off in class. No text messaging will be allowed during class. No eating will be allowed in class. And unless you receive explicit permission from Dr. K, no personal computers will be permitted on your table during class time.

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. Six or more unexcused absences will be grounds for course failure.

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: September 30 (MTQ Prep: Sep 23)

III. City Trip and Journal entry for same on November 6(there will be a full prep for this assignment): Tentative City Trip date: November 17, c. noon time meet up.

IV. Research Project: 15 double-spaced, typescript pages, in 14 point font. Due date: November 20.

On Sep 25 there will be a careful prep for this assignment. This prep will include review and discussion of Academic Honesty, Outlining and Documentation.

A. This paper will be preceded by a 3-5 page Outline of the topic: OL due date: November 6.

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 via email with DrK on date TBA. 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.

Term Papers which arrive after the due date lose one full letter grade. In other words, a paper with the letter grade B that arrives beyond the due date becomes a C.

V. Blue Book Essay Final Examination: Note well: the MTQ and the Final Exam will be open book and open notes. But you must bring your own hard copies of the notes and the books. Moreover, no personal computers will be allowed in use during the MTQ and the FE.

Grading Requirements Explanation: each of the grading events, I through V, carries roughly equal weight.

Attendance Policy: Freshman with more than 4 unexcused absences fail (Y) the course. For the upper classmen, more than 4 unexcused absences will probably damage your Final Grade. For excused absences, there are forms you should have filled out, signed and given to DrK.

Excused absences are generally only given for a death in the immediate family, serious illness, accompanied by an individual hard copy of a physician's note, a hard copy of a formal death notice or a note from the Dean's office. Excused ntoicea may also be granted for necessary University related business.

Students w. relevant 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 this subject very soon. Any information communicated to Dr.K. on this matter will remain confidential.

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

Classroom Comportment: with one pre-designated exception, students must turn cell phones off during our class period.

No eating is allowed in class

Unless permission is explicitly given before class, personal computers must not be on your table during class time.

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:

August 26: Course Intro and Syllabus Review; the Importance of the Course

August 28: Intro to Revolutionary Era; c. Thirteen Major Causes of the Revolution (Hand out); Intro to Franklin (possible Hand out)

September 4: BF (contrast w. crimped bottle cap folks), including BF Primary and Secondary Bibliography. BF AUTOBIOGRAPHY

“ ‘The Father of All the Yankees... ‘ ‘; D.E.A.N: 4 Forms of Discourse in Prose (Hand out)

Elements of Narration (Hand out)

9 Major Schools of Literary Criticism (Hand out):

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

September 9: BF: “The Kite Experiment,” “The Way to Wealth,” “Poor Richard’s Maxims,” “Remarks Concerning the Savages of North America,” and “Information to Those Who Would Remove to America”

“The Art of Procuring Pleasant Dreams,” “Speech in the Constitutional Convention...,” and “Letter to Ezra Stiles.”

September 11: Intro to TJ, including primary and secondary bibliography

8 Traditional Topics of Rhetoric (hand-out)

7 Types of History(hand out):

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

September 16: Discuss the following TJ readings: SUMMARY VIEW and NOTES ON...VA

September 18: City Trip and City Trip Journal Prep (Handouts) miscellaneous Jefferson and Franklin information

September 23: Mid-Term Quiz prep; and TJ discussion pp. 233-251, 290-300, 305-321, 325-327, 332-357.

September 25: Term Paper Prep: Three Parts of most Papers; Review DEAN; Outlining & Outline Critique Methodology (Handouts); Tips for Good Writing (Handout); and Punctuation (Handouts).

Sep 30: TJ discussion: pp. 346, 349-353, 358-373, 380-388, 390-398; 400-412, 414-415, 423-440, 442, 444, 453-466

September 30: Mid-Term Quiz

October 2: TJ: pp. 470-474, 477-479, 484-507, 511-513, 517, 544-547, 564-567

October 9: Review MTQ; Intro McCullough; 1776 through p. 112.

Mid-term break

October 21: McCullough; discuss 1776 pp. 112-197;

October 23: Revolutionary War Biblio, including Higginbotham, Mackesy and Ward;

REBELS AND REDCOATS;

October 28: Discuss McCullough, p.197 through the end.

Necessary venues to visit on City Trip, November 17: 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 tickets are \$1.50 apiece :

www.nps.gov/inde Independence Visitors Center; north east corner of 6th and Market Streets; meet here at 1200 to take tour (?).

October 30: Intro Adams family; Term paper topic clearance date(?); DrK's article and book reviews on Adams.

Discuss Shuffleton. ADAMS. Intro to page 172.

November 4: Shuffleton. ADAMS. pp. 172-329; Term paper Outlines due

November 6: Shuffleton. ADAMS. pp. 330-414. TP OLs returned; and discussion of same.

November 11: Intro to the Campaign in the South; Babits through p. 80; Final Exam Prep.

November 13: Babits. Pp. 81-136.

November 17: ARE City Trip

November 18: Babits, pp 137 through end.

November 20: Term Papers due; Final Exam Prep; 1781: 1/3

November 25: 1781: 2/3

THANKSGIVING holiday

December 2: 1781: last 1/3; GM discussion: 1/3

December 4: Possibly Course Evaluations; GM: 2/3

December 9: GM through ending

December 11: Last class day; course summation

Final Exam period: TBA