

HIS 434 01-02/534-01:

Hamilton's America: Gender & Race in the Revolutionary Era

Online Asynchronous

Professor: Dr. Mandy L. Cooper

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 1-2 in MHRA 2145, Fridays 1-2 via Teams, & by appointment

UNCG is located on the traditional lands of the Keyaumee and Saura. Let us venture to honor them with our work together.

The Broadway musical “Hamilton” has popularized study of Alexander Hamilton and the rapidly changing world in which he lived. Yet, it has also raised questions regarding the central ideas, acts, and figures of the founding of the United States. This class focuses on a central question in the history of the American Revolution: “a revolution for whom?” We will move beyond the Founders to examine the Revolution from the perspective of women, Native Americans, African Americans, and loyalists, beginning in the late colonial period and continuing through the early American Republic. Finally, we’ll examine the stories that we continue to tell of the American Revolution, questioning who takes center stage in those stories—and why that matters.

Learning Goals for this Course:

Historical Comprehension (Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods):

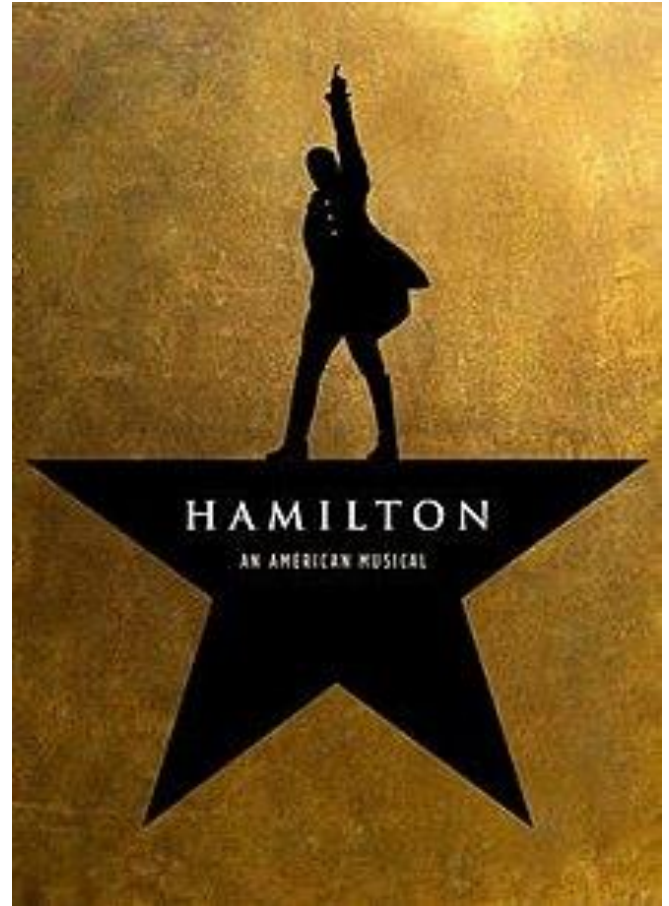
- Acquire a basic knowledge of the history of the American Revolution, its legacy, and the uses of its memory
- Gain a better understanding of the intersections of race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality in the lives of Americans during the Revolutionary era

Historical Analysis (Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view):

- Analyze the intersections of race, class, and gender over time and space
- Develop skills in analyzing primary sources and historical topics – and apply those skills to develop strong analytical arguments
- To analyze scholarship and a variety of media to create original arguments in writing.

Historical Interpretation (Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing):

- Demonstrate the ability to communicate analytical ideas effectively – both in discussion and in writing



- Construct a historical argument
- Evaluate a scholarly argument and critique scholars' interpretations of history
- Participate in an academic discussion

Historical Research (Conduct original research by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources):

- Develop, research, and write a final project that is grounded in primary sources and supported by scholarly literature

Course Readings:

Readings will consist of book chapters, articles, and primary sources. Book chapters and primary sources will be posted on Canvas or linked on the syllabus, and articles can be found on JSTOR and in Perusall.

Class Structure:

This class is an online, discussion-based seminar. I have included dates in the course schedule below as guidelines. You are free to work at your own pace, as long as all assignments are submitted by the deadline.

There will be short lectures for each topic to give context for the readings, but the majority of class will be devoted to different types of discussions of the secondary and primary source readings for each topic. Your response and discussions should reveal your knowledge of the assigned reading. I will post guided questions for each topic. Each student will then use those questions to help shape their reading and annotations in Perusall, along with their posts to the discussion forums.

Participation in the discussion forums and activities is key to success in this course. Your participation should include two things: 1) your response to the guided questions for the readings and lectures, and 2) a conversation with your classmates via responses to their posts. The first part is relatively easy. The second part, however, will require more work. You cannot simply post a response of "I agree" or "That's a good question." Instead, think of it as a true conversation – if you agree (or disagree) respectfully explain why. If you have the same question, or a follow up question, based on your classmate's point, then elaborate on that question. You should all be building off of each other. I will monitor the discussion forums as well, and engage with you all periodically, much as I would during an in-class discussion.

Reading Assignments:

Students should complete the assigned readings for a particular lecture before watching/listening to the lecture. You will need to thoroughly read the book chapters and/or articles (posted on Canvas) and be prepared to discuss what you have read. We will discuss strategies for reading analytically (and quickly!) and you will practice those strategies in the first module. The readings give you an idea of what we will go over in lectures, but I will be covering other topics and using my own methods to organize lectures. The primary sources are brief (generally only one to two pages each). Students are expected to do the required reading and to thoughtfully engage in the lecture, discussion, and primary source exercises. Thoughtful engagement with these exercises via Perusall and the discussion forums will form the basis of students' participation grades. (See above on what that participation should look like). All primary sources are hyperlinked on the syllabus and in the modules unless otherwise noted.

Research Project 1:

Your first assignment for this course is a small research project designed to help you think outside of the traditional box of written/text-based primary sources. Find a physical object (either unique or representative) that dates from the Revolutionary era. What might it have been used for? Who by? Describe and explain the object in its context. Make a case for the ways in which it reveals or illuminates some element of the culture that produced it. You will receive more information on this assignment in class.

Response Paper:

Each student will sign up to write a brief response paper (2-3 pages) that critiques Hamilton's portrayal of the day's topic. In addition to the regular readings for that day, students will be responsible for reading a selected chapter from *Historians on Hamilton*. *Historians on Hamilton* is available as an ebook through the library.

Blog:

Throughout the semester, each student will keep a weekly blog on course readings, discussions, and lectures. These blogs should be no more than 1-2 paragraphs long and should focus on your response (your thoughts, analysis, and questions) to the week's readings, lectures, and discussions. For these blogs, you may include current events, images, popular culture, etc. if you see a relation to the course material. You are required to cite your sources. Each week's blog is due on Friday by 5PM. Throughout the semester, you should also comment on the blogposts of your classmates. We will be using the discussion forums on Canvas for our blogs. Please remember that what you put online is forever.

Final Project:

Students will complete a final project for the course. This project should be based on substantial research—the amount of research that would make for a deeply researched 8-10 page research paper. But the final product can take any number of forms:

- A traditional research paper of 8-10 pages for undergraduate students or 12-15 pages for graduate students.
- An exhibit
- A rap or series of raps that provide a different perspective than that provided in *Hamilton* on some aspect of the American Revolution. For example, a rap could convey an experience and point of view of a character not represented in the musical, such as one of Hamilton's servants; an enslaved, freed, or self-emancipated African American; one of Hamilton's elite or plebeian political opponents; or a politically connected banker or speculator.
- A website.
- A comic strip or comic book.
- A visual essay, presenting and interpreting images from the Revolutionary era on a given topic.

Final projects can take other forms as well.

Whatever form the final project takes, it must meet the following criteria:

- It must be about a narrow topic during the era of the American Revolution.
- It must convey a clear and specific interpretation.

- It must be based on research in at least two secondary sources (articles and/or books by historians) and a significant body of primary sources (for example, one person's letters, a diary, newspaper discussion of a particular controversy or event, etc.).
- It must treat the secondary sources as more than a source of information. In addition (and more importantly), it must treat those sources as interpretations that the project tries to go beyond in some way.

To put the previous point in another way: your project must attempt to say something new—to revise the interpretation you find in the secondary sources on your topic, or to discuss an issue that the secondary sources do not address.

As preliminary steps to completing their final projects, students must submit the following to be critiqued by their assigned groups:

- 3 topic choices & proposed final project format.
- a 1-2 page discussion of at least two secondary sources (articles and/or books by historians) on their topic
- and a 1-2 page preliminary interpretation of a portion of the primary sources for their project.

Exams:

There will be one exam in the middle of the semester. Students will be provided with essay topics in advance.

Graduate Students – Book Review:

In addition to the above assignments, graduate students will also complete a book review (900 words) of a book that students will choose from a provided list.

Grading Scheme for Undergraduate Students:

Participation: 15%

Research Project 1: 15%

Blog: 15%

Response Paper: 15%

Final Project: 25%

Midterm Exam: 15%

Grading Scheme for Graduate Students:

Participation: 15%

Book Review: 10%

Research Project 1: 10%

Blog: 10%

Response Paper: 15%

Final Project: 25%

Midterm Exam: 15%

Late Work:

All papers and assignments are due by 8AM on the date listed on the syllabus. (Except for the weekly blog, which is due on Fridays by 5PM). If you encounter extenuating circumstances that mean that you are unable to submit an assignment, you should email me personally to make

arrangements to ensure that you do not fall behind. It is particularly important that you submit your secondary and primary source discussions for your final projects on time, because you will be broken down into peer review groups based on topic/format. You are responsible for reading & providing peer review comments to each classmate in your group. You will have one week to respond to each of your fellow groupmates. If you do not, then your grade on the final project will suffer.

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of others without giving them credit. Any source that you use in your work (i.e. books, documents, articles, webpages) must be properly cited. If you use someone else's exact words they must be enclosed in quotation marks and be followed by a citation. If you put someone else's ideas into your own words, you must also use a citation. Plagiarism includes copying and pasting any text from the internet into a document without using quotation marks and a citation.

Enrollment in this course and submission of each written assignment constitute students' acceptance of UNCG's Academic Integrity Policy. You can find the full Academic Integrity Policy, here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0rFGGhJvbdHUEXSZmFFaWFmb00/view>.

Academic Support & Disability Accommodations:

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro seeks to promote meaningful access to educational opportunities for all students. Should you have any needs or questions related to disability issues, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS - <https://ods.uncg.edu/>), located in the Elliot University Center, #215. As an instructor, I am committed to making this course accessible to all students in it and will work with OARS to accommodate students' requests. You do not need to disclose details about your disability to the instructor in order to receive accommodations, but you do need to have documentation from OARS for whatever accommodation you have been approved for.

Contra Power Statement:

As your instructor, I am committed to creating a productive and non-discriminatory learning environment of mutual respect. Title IX and UNCG's school policy prohibit gender-based harassment, sexual harassment, and sex discrimination for all members of the University community. Harassment can come in many forms - both direct and indirect - and can occur in subtle or overt ways. Traditionally, harassment is seen from a formal power-over structure. However, harassment can occur without a formal power structure. Contrapower, when a student harasses an instructor or peer, is a type of behavior that can create an intimidating environment in and outside of the classroom. Either form of harassment can include direct or indirect comments, physical intimidation, emails, anonymous notes, and course evaluations. **Both Contrapower and traditional forms of harassment are prohibited and subject to the same kinds of accountability applied to offenses against protected categories, such as race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, etc.**

If you experience or witness such instances of harassment, please seek out the following resources:

- UNCG Counseling Center (non-reporting agency/confidential): 336.334.5874
- Murphie Chappell, Title IX Coordinator (reporting agent): 336.256.0362 or mechappe@uncg.edu
- University Police (reporting agent): 336.334.4444

For more information on UNCG's policies regarding harassment, visit [UNCG Sexual Harassment Policy](#)

Classroom Conduct:

Students are expected to assist in maintaining an online classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Please review the [Disruptive Behavior in the Classroom Policy](#) for additional information.

Health and Wellness:

Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/> or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp> or reaching out to recovery@uncg.edu

Religious Observance:

The university allows for a limited number of excused absences each academic year for religious observances required by the faith of the student. Students must notify both myself and your TA in advance of the date of the religious observance.

Writing Center:

The Writing Center provides support for all types of writing assignments. Since you pay for the Writing Center via your student fees, you should take advantage of it to improve your writing. Visit the Writing Center (<https://writingcenter.uncg.edu/>) to learn more.

Speaking Center:

Besides providing help for in-class presentations, the Speaking Center has useful resources and tips for students who are shy about speaking up in class or section. (speakingcenter.uncg.edu)

Spartan Safe App

This app is designed to make all our experiences on campus as safe possible. The app empowers our campus community with the tools we need to be prepared, mitigate dangers, and respond appropriately to situations that occur. The app includes emergency alerts, tools for staying safe on campus, emergency response guides, campus maps, and a variety of other resources. Some of these features include:

- **Mobile Blue Light-** The Mobile Blue Light feature places an emergency blue light in your pocket. When you activate this emergency feature on campus, it simultaneously places an emergency call to UNCG Police Dispatch and shares your location with Police Communicators

- **Friend Walk-** The Friend Walk feature allows you to share your location with a family member or friend so that they can remotely monitor your location while you walk to your destination and ensure you arrive safely.
- **Chat with UNCG Police-** You don't always have to call. The chat with UNCG Police feature provides users with the ability to chat with a UNCG Police Communicator.
- **Report a Tip-** Have something to report? This feature provides you with several options to contact UNCG Police- including options to remain anonymous
- **Action Guides-** What do you do when something bad happens? Don't worry, we have you covered. Tons of guides and tips on what to do so you can be prepared before an emergency occurs.



Office Hours:

I am always happy to discuss any questions or concerns you have regarding this course. I am always available during office hours, and you are welcome to schedule an appointment outside of those times by emailing me.

History Department Websites:

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uncghistory1/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory>

Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCmAM-qIz-IVzKR_YmoHq4A

Syllabus Updates:

Please note that readings and due dates are subject to change. I will notify you of any changes to the course schedule in class.

Course Schedule

Mon., Jan. 8	Introductions Activity: Woody Holton, "American Revolution an Early Republic," in <i>American History Now</i> Further Context: Michael D. Hattem, "Revolution Lost? Vast Early America, National History, and the American Revolution," <i>William and Mary Quarterly</i> 78, no. 2 (April 2021): 269-274.
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Part 1: Overview: The Revolution We Know (Or Do We?)

Wed., Jan. 10	Road to Revolution Reading: EITHER Nicole Eustace, "A Passion for Liberty—the Spirit of
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Freedom: The Rhetoric of Emotion in the Age of Revolution,” in *Passion is the Gale: Emotion, Power, and the Coming of the American Revolution* OR Woody Holton, “Tobacco Growers versus Merchants and Parliament,” in *Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves & the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia*

Primary Sources:

- [New York Merchants Non-importation Agreement; October 31, 1765](#)

- [Circular Letter of the Boston Committee of Correspondence; May 13, 1774](#)

- [Patrick Henry, “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death” \(1775\)](#)

- [Virginia Declaration of Rights \(1776\)](#)

Friday, Jan. 12 – Last day to add/drop course for tuition & fees refund

Mon. Jan. 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wed., Jan. 17 Revolution!
Reading: Alan Taylor, “Allies” in *American Revolutions: A Continental History, 1750-1804*

Primary Sources:

- [Thomas Paine calls for American independence, 1776](#)

Mon, Jan. 22 Legislation & Compromises in Making a New Nation
Reading: Alan Taylor, “Republics,” in *American Revolutions: A Continental History, 1750-1804*

Primary Sources:

- [The Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union, 1781](#)

- Constitutional Convention, Debates on Slavery (1787)

NOTE: This source will be posted on Canvas

- [Thomas Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia \(1785\)](#)

- [Constitutional Ratification Cartoon, 1789](#)

Wed., Jan. 24 Politics & Economics in a New Nation
Reading: Joanne Freeman, “Dueling as Politics” in *Affairs of Honor*
HoH reading: Joanne Freeman, ““Can We Get Back to Politics? Please?”
Hamilton’s Missing Politics in *Hamilton*”

Primary Sources:

- [George Washington, “Farewell Address,” 1796](#)

*****Topic choices and proposed project format due.**

Part 2: A Revolution for Whom?

Mon., Jan. 29 Women & the Home Front

Reading: Ellen Hartigan-O’Connor, “The Republic of Goods,” in *The Ties that Buy: Women and Commerce in Revolutionary America*

Primary Sources:

- [Women in South Carolina experience occupation, 1780](#)

Wed., Jan. 31 Women & Politics in the Revolutionary Era

Reading: Linda Kerber, “The Republican Mother: Women and the

Enlightenment—An American Perspective,” *American Quarterly* 28, No. 2, (Summer 1976): 187-205.

HoH reading: Catherine Allgor, “Remember...I’m Your Man?: Masculinity, Marriage, and Gender in *Hamilton*”

Primary Sources:

- [Abigail and John Adams Converse on Women’s Rights, 1776](#)

- [Sentiments of an American Woman, by Esther de Berdt Reed & the Ladies Association of Philadelphia](#)

Mon., Feb. 5

Women & Politics in the Revolutionary Era, Part 2

Reading: Cassandra Good, “The Power of Friendship,” in *Founding Friendships: Friendships between Men and Women in the Early American Republic*

Primary Sources:

-[Mary Smith Cranch comments on politics, 1786-87](#)

Wed, Feb. 7

A Revolution in Fertility

Reading: Susan E. Klepp, “Women’s Words,” in *Revolutionary Conceptions: Women, Fertility, and Family Limitation in America, 1760-1820*

*****Research Project 1 Due**

Mon, Feb. 12

Native Americans, Part 1

Reading: Colin Calloway, “Corn wars and civil wars: the American Revolutions comes to Indian country,” in *The American Revolution in Indian Country*

Primary Sources:

-[Oneida Declaration of Neutrality, 1775](#)

-[The War for Independence Through Seneca Eyes: Mary Jemison Views the Revolution, 1775–79](#)

Wed., Feb. 14

Native Americans, Part 2

Reading: Colin Calloway, “Chota: Cherokee beloved town in a world at war,” in *The American Revolution in Indian Country*

Primary Source:

- [“The Disturbances in America give great trouble to all our Nations”: Mohawk Joseph Brant Comes to London to See the King, 1776](#)

Mon., Feb. 19

Native Americans, Part 3

Reading: Kathleen Duval, “Alexander McGillivray” and “Confederacies,” in *Independence Lost: Lives on the Edge of the American Revolution*

Primary Sources:

- [A Confederation of Native peoples seek peace with the United States, 1786](#)

- [“The Print of My Ancestors’ Houses are Every Where to be Seen”: Little Turtle Balks at Giving Up Land to General Anthony Wayne, 1795](#)

Wed, Feb. 21

Enslaved People, Part 1

Reading: Ira Berlin, “Revolutionary Generations,” in *Generations of Captivity: A History of African-American Slaves*

HoH reading: Lyra D. Monteiro, “Race-Conscious Casting and the Erasure

of the Black Past in *Hamilton*”

Primary Sources:

- [“Natural and Inalienable Right to Freedom”: Slaves’ Petition for Freedom to the Massachusetts Legislature, 1777](#)

- [“Having Tasted the Sweets of Freedom”: Cato Petitions the Pennsylvania Legislature to Remain Free \(1781\)](#)

Mon., Feb. 26

Enslaved People, Part 2

Reading: Cassandra Pybus, “Liberty or Death,” and “Fleeing the Founding Fathers,” in *Epic Journeys of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution and their Global Quest for Liberty*

HoH reading: Leslie M. Harris, “The Greatest City in the World?” Slavery in New York in the Age of Hamilton”

Primary Source:

-[Boston King recalls fighting for the British and securing his freedom, 1798](#)

Wed., Feb. 28

Enslaved People, Part 3

Reading: Erica Armstrong Dunbar, “The Fugitive,” and “The Negotiator” in *Never Caught: The Washington’s Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge*

Primary Sources:

-Petition of Belinda, an African Slave, to the Massachusetts Legislature for Reparations for Slavery, 1787

Fri., March 1

Exam Due

Friday, March 4 – Last day to withdraw without a WF grade

SPRING BREAK

Mon., Mar. 11

Free People of Color, Part 1

Reading: Warren E. Milteer, Jr., “The Revolution of Freedom” in *Beyond Slavery’s Shadow*

Wed., Mar. 13

Free People of Color, Part 2

Reading: Warren E. Milteer, Jr., “The Backlash,” in *Beyond Slavery’s Shadow*

Mon., March 18

Loyalists, Part 1

Reading: Rebecca Brannon, “The American Revolution: South Carolina’s First Civil War,” and “Uneasy Neighbors to Trusted Friends: How Loyalists and Their Allies Built Reconciliation” in *From Revolution to Reunion*

*****Secondary Source Discussion Due**

Wed., March 20

Loyalists, Part 2

Reading: Maya Jasanoff, “The Spirit of 1783” in *Liberty’s Exiles* AND Sarah Pearsall, “The Farewell Between Husband and Wife: The Politics of Family Feeling,” in *Atlantic Families*

Mon., March 25

Elite & Ordinary Americans

Reading: Rhys Isaac, "Preachers and Patriots: Popular Culture and the Revolution in Virginia," in Young, ed. *The American Revolution*, 125-156.
HoH reading: Renee C. Romano, "*Hamilton*: A New American Civic Myth"

Primary Sources:

- [William Manning, "A Laborer," Explains Shays Rebellion in Massachusetts: "In as Plain a Manner as I Am Capable"](#)

- ["We Are All Equally Free": New York City Workingmen Demand A Voice in the Revolutionary Struggle](#)

Part 3: The Stories We Tell – Who Matters & Why?

Wed., March 27

Founders Chic

Reading: David Waldstreicher and Jeffrey L. Pasley, "*Hamilton* as Founders Chic: A Neo-Federalist, Anti-Slavery, Usable Past?"

Assignment: Find a source from the past couple of years (the more recent, the better!) that represents "Founders Chic." Post it to the discussion forum on Canvas & explain how it represents Founders Chic.

Mon., April 1

Memories of the Revolution in the 19th Century

Reading: Michael D. Hattem, "Citizenship and the Memory of the American Revolution in Nineteenth-Century Political Culture," *New York History* 101, no. 1, (Summer 2020): 30-53.

*****Primary Source Discussion Due**

Wed., April 3

Originalism?

Reading: Jack N. Rakove, "The Perils of Originalism," in *Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution*

Assignment: Bring in a newspaper article or something similar from the last 6 years that discusses originalism/original intent. Post it to the discussion forums by Wednesday at 5PM.

Mon., April 8

The Stories We Tell on Stage and Screen

Watch: Excerpts from *1776* and *Hamilton*

HoH reading: Andrew M. Schocket, "*Hamilton* and the American Revolution on Stage and Screen"

Wed., April 10

Who Tells Your Story?

Reading: Joseph M. Adelman, "Who Tells Your Story?: *Hamilton* as a People's History"

Assignment: Look up the 10 most popular books on the American Revolution on Amazon (or somewhere similar). What are they about? Who are the authors?

Mon., April 15

The Revolution & Historical Memory Today

Assignment: Visit the Museum of the American Revolution website, or find the website for another public history site that tells the story of the Revolution in some way. Spend some time looking around. How do they interpret the Revolution? Post your website and a brief paragraph to the discussion forums by Monday at 5PM.

Wed., April 17 The Revolution & Historical Memory Today, Part 2
Assignment: Find a newspaper article, social media post, etc. from the last 6 years that uses the Revolution/a specific memory of the Revolution to make an argument. Post the article to the discussion forums by Wednesday at 5PM.

Mon., April 22 Deadline to post project drafts to groups for feedback

Final Projects Due Monday, April 29 by noon.