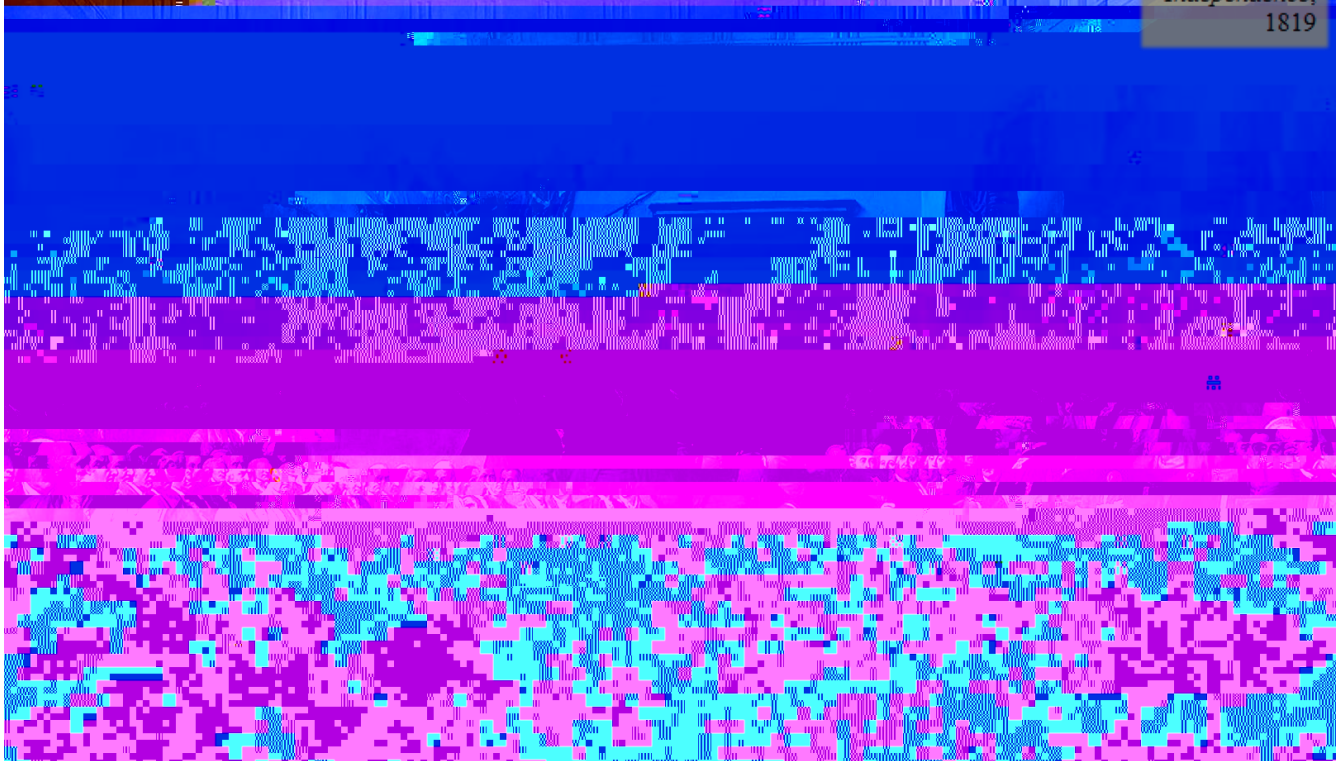


Fall 2017

HIST 2503:

John Trumbull,
*Declaration of
Independence*,
1819



Instructor: Strother Roberts

Meeting Time: M/W 2:30-3:55pm
Room: Adams #202

Email: seroberts@bowdoin.edu
Office Hours: Tu 8-11 & by appt

Course Description: Different scholars in different eras have presented the American Revolution as either a radically egalitarian movement in favor of universal human rights or as a fundamentally conservative rebellion led by elite men striving to protect their wealth and political power from both the British Parliament and those occupying the lower rungs of American society. Unraveling the often varied (and sometimes competing) motives of Americans during the Revolution requires understanding the words and actions of Revolutionaries in light of their contemporary cultures and societies. Often this means putting aside modern claims about what “the Revolution means” in order to better understand the political ideologies and goals that underlay this foundational era of American history.

INTRODUCTION – UNDERSTANDING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

WEEK 1: Introduction

Aug 31: W

WEEK 6: Radically Conservative

Oct 3: A Republican/Radical Revolution (Neo-Whigs: The Next Generation)

Jack P. Greene, "The Preconditions of the American Revolution," in *Major Problems in the Era of the American Revolution, 1760-1791*, ed. Richard D. Brown (Lexington, MA: D.C. Heath and Company, 1992; Originally published 1973), 58-79 [20 pages]

Gordon Wood, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution* (New York: Vintage Books, 1993), Chs 10, 13 [35 pages]

IN-CLASS: Thomas Young and James Cannon

Oct 5: The Conservative (or Illiberal) Revolution

Howard Zinn, "Tyranny is Tyranny," and "A Kind of Revolution," in *A People's History of the United States, 1492-Present*, Revised and Updated Edition (New York: Harper Collins, 1995 – Originally Published in 1980), 59-101, [40 pages]

Francis Jennings, "Introduction," and "In Sum," in

PART III – TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF THE REVOLUTION

WEEK 9: Accommodating the Mob

Oct 24: Urban Mobs

Jesse Lemisch, "Jack Tar in the Streets: Merchant Seamen in the Politics of Revolutionary America," *William & Mary Quarterly* 25, no. 3 (1968), 371-407 [35 p.]

Paul A. Gilje, "Rioting in the Revolution," in *Road to Mobocracy: Popular Disorder in New York City, 1763-1834* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1987), 44-

PART IV: THE REVOLUTION TODAY

WEEK 12: The Revolution on Film

Nov 14: An Inglorious Revolution (**No Class**)

Watch *REVOLUTION!*

Andrew M. Schocket, "Little Founders on the Small Screen: Interpreting a Multicultural American Revolution for Children's Television," *Journal of American Studies* 45, no. 1 (2011), 145-163 [20 pages]

Nov 16: Inglorious... And Yet Dashing

Watch *The Patriot*

WEEK 13:

Nov 21: **No Class: Work on Individual Project**

Nov 23: **No Class: Thanksgiving Break**

WEEK 14: Project Discussions

Nov 28: In-Class Discussion of Projects

Nov 30: In-Class Discussion of Projects

WEEK 15: The Revolution Today

Dec 5: The Revolutionary Era in Popular Culture

Jill Lepore, *Whites of Their Eyes: The Tea-Party's Revolution and the Battle over American History* (Princeton,.: Princeton University Press, 2010), 1-97 [100 pages]

Dec 7: The Political Legacy of the Founding Era

Lepore, *Whites of Their Eyes*, 98-End [60 pages]

WEEK 16: Reading Period

WEEK 17: FINALS WEEK

Dec18: Final Papers due at 5:00pm

WARNINGS AND DISCLAIMERS

BLACKBOARD: Blackboard will be an integral part of this course. The syllabus, descriptions of assignments, useful guides, and any changes hereafter will be posted there. You are required to check Blackboard regularly and will be responsible for all material on the course site.

CITATION OF SOURCES: When referring to sources (primary and secondary) in your papers, you should provide a complete citation including author, title, publisher, place and date of publication, and page numbers. Citations should follow the "Chicago-style" format commonly used by historians. I ask that you use footnotes with all of your paper assignments. The library website has citation information under "Get Started," and I have included several links on Blackboard. Please see me if you have any questions.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All students must read and abide by the Academic Honor and Social Code (<http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/college-policies/index.shtml>). Suspected cases of plagiarism will result in a conference me, and, if unresolved at that point, will be referred to the Judicial Board. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please consult a reference librarian or ask me.