

HIST 263: Age of the American Revolution

SBC: SBS, USA

Thematic Categories: Arts, Ideas & Culture; Empires,
Violence & Global Connections; Law, Politics & Social Justice

Instructor: Jocelyn Zimmerman

Summer Session I

Asynchronous

What happens to our understandings of the American Revolution when we read texts like the Declaration of Independence alongside old maps, archaeological remains, political cartoons, letters, and even eighteenth-century erotica? This summer, forget what you know about the American Revolution. Prepare to see this moment in history through the eyes of enlightenment thinkers, small pox doctors, Indigenous Nations, proto-feminists, and free Black Haitian revolutionaries. Get ready to reflect on contemporary definitions of republicanism, liberalism, and “states’ rights” by re-visiting their eighteenth-century meanings. In this six-week summer course we will ask an abundance of questions to get a deeper understanding of the American Revolution—what it was, and what it was not. Our course objective is simply to think outside of the box. Weekly voice thread and blackboard discussions will ask you to read visual and textual sources for all of their possible meanings. Two larger projects, one of which must be an essay and one of which can be a podcast or blog post, will ask you to synthesize course material and posit your own reading of the event we call the “American Revolution.”