

HIST 451: The American Revolution

A team-taught course

Instructors: Michelle Jolly, Kathleen Noonan

Spring 2012 -- T*Th, 8:00 – 9:50 (4 units)



Why was “45” a revolutionary number?

What was the real role of tea (and tea sets) in the coming of the Revolution?

Who was George Robert Twelves Hewes, and how did he shape the American Revolution?

How did the debt crisis of the 1780s give rise to the U.S. Constitution?

Where did American loyalists go after the British lost the Revolutionary War? How did they influence the 19th century British empire? How did they influence the new United States?

When were the events of December 17, 1773, first called the “Boston Massacre”?

This team-taught course explores these questions and more as we investigate long history of American Revolution from both sides of the Atlantic. We examine its origins in the English Civil War and Glorious Revolution as well as in colonial politics and economy. We explore the contested nature of the Revolution itself and its aftermath among American colonists, including the writing of state and national constitutions. Finally, we broaden our focus to see the ramifications of the Revolution beyond the borders of the new United States. We will also ask the ways how Americans remember the Revolution, telling and retelling its stories that took on new and different significance for different groups over time.

For additional information please contact Michelle Jolly, michelle.jolly@sonoma.edu
or Kathleen Noonan, kathleen.noonan@sonoma.edu