

8/1/05

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
HIS 279 - AGE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (3 CR)**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines the factors that led to the separation of the American colonies from Great Britain. The course covers the events leading to the Revolutionary War, the problems faced by the revolutionary government in fighting the war, the war itself, and postwar events leading to the adoption the United States Constitution. Lecture 3 hours per week.

GENERAL COURSE PURPOSE

To provide students with a basic understanding of the period in which the United States was created and an appreciation of the significance of that period of United States history in understanding the American nation and people.

ENTRY-LEVEL COMPETENCIES

An ability to read and write English correctly and effectively at the college-entry level is expected. It is preferable the student have a general knowledge of American history, especially early American history, before enrolling in History 279.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To help students to understand the background and causes of the American Revolution, from early colonial times to 1775.
2. To help students understand the political and military challenges faced by the revolutionary colonists.
3. To examine the changes in American society wrought by the revolution.
4. To help students understand the postwar problems of the new nation that led to the writing and adoption of the Constitution.
5. To help students understand the challenges of making the new government under the Constitution function effectively.
6. To encourage students to consider the political, economic, and social heritage shared by all Americans that comes from the revolutionary era.

MAJOR TOPICS TO BE COVERED – HIS 279

1. General colonial background—the years of benign neglect.
2. The immediate background of the American Revolution, 1763-1775.
3. The Revolutionary War 1775-1783.
4. The decision to adopt Declaration of Independence
5. Revolutionary Diplomacy and the making of the Treaty of Paris
6. The Period of the Confederation, 1783-1789
7. Adoption of the U.S. Constitution 1787-1788
8. Early National Period, 1789-1800.