

# The American Revolution

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## Course Description

This course focuses on the story of the birth and initial growth of the United States of America. Professor Berkin begins with a discussion of how the thirteen colonies moved from relatively content members of the British empire to independent states eager for self-government. Those who take the course will gain insight into many different perspectives on the Revolution, including women, the common soldier, and loyalists. The course ends with a discussion about the successes and failures of the new nation through an examination of the Articles of Confederation, the Constitutional Convention, and the fight for the ratification of the Constitution.

## Lecture Videos

This course consists of approximately 6-10 hours of instruction presented by Professor Berkin, split into 24 lecture videos ranging from 15 minutes to 25 minutes long. The videos provide the content needed to answer the course quizzes.

1. “America in 1754: The Context for the Revolution” (2 videos)
2. “The Consequences of the Great War for Empire” (2 videos)
3. “From Lexington and Concord to the Declaration of Independence” (2 videos)
4. “The War- Part 1” (2 videos)
5. “The War- Part 2” (2 videos)
6. “The Role of Women in the Revolution” (2 videos)
7. “The War from the Soldier’s Perspective” (2 videos)

8. “The Fate of Loyalists” (2 videos)
9. “A New Look at the Articles of Confederation” (2 videos)
10. “The Constitutional Convention” (2 videos)
11. “The Battle for Ratification of the Constitution” (2 videos)
12. “The First Decade of the Constitution” (2 videos)

Note: Course lectures were originally recorded for the Gilder Lehrman Institute’s online graduate program. You can disregard references to assignments, other coursework, and the use of content in classrooms discussed in the videos. They are not part of the History U program.

### Resources

Select the Resources link for information about the primary and secondary resources, videos, and websites referred to in the course. Please note: History U participants are not required to read or purchase print materials. All quiz questions are drawn from the lectures.

### Quizzes

The purpose of the 12 short quizzes is to review your knowledge of the material covered in the lectures. No outside reading is required to answer the questions successfully. After watching each video in the course, select and complete the corresponding quiz to test your knowledge and qualify for the Certificate of Completion.

### Certificate of Completion

After you finish watching all of the lectures, score an 80% or higher on each quiz, and complete the feedback survey, you will be able to download your certificate.

Please email [historyschool@gilderlehrman.org](mailto:historyschool@gilderlehrman.org) with any questions.