

# Community Education – Winter Quarter 2026

**Course Title: American Revolution Series: Battlefields and Diplomacy**

**Instructors:** Tracy Reilly Kelly and John Jay

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## Course Details

- Tuesdays, 2/10 to 3/10
- 1:30pm to 3:30pm
- Columbia Tech Center Campus, 18700 SE Mill Plain Blvd. Room 338

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## Course Description

In Part II, examine the key battles, strategies, and diplomacy of the Revolutionary War, from Washington's Continental Army to Lord Cornwallis' defeat at Yorktown in 1781 and the Treaty of Paris. Explore differences between militias and the Continental Army, Hessians and Red Coats, and consider how the war impacted both Patriots and Loyalists. Learn how the Continental Congress coordinated, financed, and sought international recognition for the war effort. This is a standalone class; no prior enrollment in the Fall session is required.

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## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Explore how American's created a government during the American Revolution.
- Examine the battles of the Revolution, learning strategy and what the battlefield conditions were like.
- Learn the social history behind the new American continent – what were people doing as the battles were fought.
- Understand how the Revolution also brought on an international field of war, and how the British reacted to this.
- Describe the feelings of Colonists – how did they become unified at a time when each colony's personal independence was paramount.

- Understand how militias and the Continental Army were different in training and in the outcome of the war.
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## Course Schedule

NOTE: Every week we will be blending in subjects to include the Social History of War; People; Transit; Food; Pleasure; Life on the Battlefield; Disease; and Medicine

**Week 1 – Feb 10: Review, “The British Empire Strikes Back”- War Escalates, General George Washington Crosses the Delaware; The Lord Howe’s + Diplomacy** The Revolutionary War Begins! Review our nation’s founding document. The theater of war moves from Boston to center on New York and New Jersey. What is happening with Franklin attempting to get European support?

**Week 2 – Feb 17: Brandywine, Germantown, Saratoga, Kaskaskia, Benjamin Franklin: America’s First Diplomat, John Adams, Diplomacy + Alliance with France, Confederation Congress, About soldiers**

- Things begin poorly for the Americans. The British seize Philadelphia but fail to coordinate their armies which leads to an American victory at Saratoga, opening the door for French and Spanish intervention.

**Week 3 – Feb 23: British Reaction to Alliance w France - abandon Philadelphia and the War Moves South; Valley Forge; Taking the Fight to Sea - John Paul Jones; Privateers vs Royal Navy, Shipbuilding, Colonies and Enslavement**

- British realign to concentrate on war with France and Europe. Philadelphia abandoned leading to the British capture Savannah in pursuit of a better war in the South. Spain declares war. The USS Bonhomme Richard and hero John Paul Jones come in to fight. Learn how and where shipbuilding was centered.

**Week 4 – Mar 3: Allies + Traitors - Benedict Arnold, Spies; European Allies and Homegrown Heroes Assist Washington; Sullivan’s Expedition; War in North + South Carolinas. Emerging Diplomats**

- Benedict Arnold plan to surrender West Point and betray the American cause is thwarted, but he is soon leading a military expedition against Virginia. Sullivan leads an expedition against the Iroquois Confederacy and Charleston falls to the British. What are the diplomats doing?

**Week 5 – Mar 10: Oct 1781 – Nathaneal Greene’s Guerilla War; Lord Cornwallis Surrenders at Yorktown; The Treaty of Paris; Washington’s Resigns his Commission, Confederation Congress, Loyalists Evacuate**

- Hurray for our side – Nathaneal Greene undermines the British in the South using Guerilla Warfare, setting the stage Cornwallis’ surrender at Yorktown. A few more skirmishes as it takes some time for word of war’s end. The new country must create a government. Loyalists must skedaddle – where did they go?

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## Resources

Recommended references for further study:

- Each week your instructors will send an emailed list of resources and a bibliography.

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## Your instructors:

- **Tracy Reilly Kelly** retired as Program Manager at Clark College Continuing Education, managing Community Education, the Cooking School and the Mature Learning program. Tracy, initially a history major, received her B.A. in Human Services from the Evergreen State College and an M.S. in Teaching Health Education at Portland State University. She began teaching Health at Clark in 1991 at Clark College for 12 years and at Portland State University for 4 years. In 2008, Tracy was honored as a Woman of Achievement by the YWCA of Clark County and Clark College.
  - **John Jay** holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin. In 2025, he was elected to the Clark County Charter Review Commission. He also currently serves on the Vancouver Planning Commission and as a precinct committee officer. His previous community service includes the Clark County Parks Advisory Board and serving as Vice Chair of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce Government and Public Affairs Committee. With over a decade of experience spanning the private sector and politics, John specializes in marketing and political campaigns.
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## Class Evaluation

- Class evaluations are sent by email.
  - If you don't see it right away, check your **junk/spam folder**.
  - Evaluations are **anonymous** and come directly from Clark College.
  - If you don't receive one, contact:
    - Email: [continuingeducation@clark.edu](mailto:continuingeducation@clark.edu)
    - Phone: 360-992-2939
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## Inclement Weather

- If the college closes due to weather, updates will appear at [www.clark.edu](http://www.clark.edu)
  - Community Education may also cancel classes independently if travel is unsafe.
  - If canceled, you will be notified by both phone and email.
  - Please check that your contact information is correct on the class roster.
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