Origins of the United States Constitution
AMH 4550/HIS 6416
KF 111, MWF 6th period (12:50-1:40PM)

Elizabeth Dale
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Office Hours: MWF (in 224 KF): 9:00-10:00, and by appointment

Required and recommended textbooks and other course materials
Craig Yirush, *Settlers, Liberty & Empire* (Cambridge U Press)
David Steward, *The Summer of 1787* (Simon & Schuster)
Pauline Maier, *Ratification* (Simon & Schuster)

(All of these books are required, they have been ordered through the UF bookstore, they also are all available online, and several of them are available as ebooks)

Other readings will be online and are attached to this syllabus.

Course Objectives
This course will explore the intellectual, social and political origins of the U.S. Constitution.

Evaluation
Undergraduates: 25% class participation
25% first paper (ten pages)
25% second paper (ten pages)
25% take home final exam

Graduate students: 90% seminar paper (due at the end of the semester)
10% based on participation in extra sessions

Class attendance policy
Attendance is expected and will count towards your participation grade (though perfect attendance does not make up for lack of actual participation in discussion).

Policy related to Make-up exams or other work
Papers are due on the day set in the schedule, at the start of class. A paper turned in late the day due will be marked down half a grade (from an A to an A-, for example). A paper turned in a day late will be marked down a full grade (from an A to a B), a paper turned in two days late will be marked down two full grades (from an A to a C).
Occasionally events and problems intervene and you must miss class on the day an assignment is due. Let me know about the problem before class and we will work things out. People who notify me that they will miss class after class will be marked down according to the policy set out above.

Statement related to accommodations for students with disabilities
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Resources. The UF Office of Disability Resources will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Law School Office of Student Affairs when requesting accommodation.

Academic Honesty
Copying materials and ideas from someone else (regardless of whether the someone else is a professional historian, a faculty member, or a fellow student) without attribution is plagiarism. This is true even if you do not copy a direct quote. Please familiarize yourself with the university rules on academic honesty (Regulation 4.040, University of Florida Regulations) and the discussion of plagiarism available on my website (plaza.ufl.edu/edale).

Information on grading policies

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<td>C (Satisfactory)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B (Good)</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>D (Poor)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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Schedule of subjects to be covered (Tentative)

**Week 1:**
- Wed, Aug 22: Introduction to the course
- Friday, August 24: Magna Carta

**Week 2:**
- Monday, August 27: Charter of the Forest
- Friday, August 31: English Bill of Rights

**Week 3:**
- Monday, Sept 3: LABOR DAY, NO CLASS
- Wed, Sept 5: Locke, excerpts from the Second Treatise
- Friday, Sept 7: Blackstone, excerpts from Commentaries on the Laws of England, vol. 1; Samuel Adams, article in the Boston Gazette, February 1769
Week 4:
Monday, Sept 10: Yirush, *Settlers, Liberty and Empire*
Wed, Sept 12: *Declaration of Independence*
***First Assignment Handed Out***
Friday, Sept 14: *Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776*; South Carolina Constitution of 1776 (No. 1; No. 2)

Week 5:
Monday: Sept 17: *Articles of Confederation*
Wed, Sept 19: *Jefferson on the Articles of Confederation*
Friday: Sept 21: Alexander Hamilton on failures of the Confederation, *Letter 1; Letter 2*
***First Assignment Due***

Week 6:
Monday, Sept 24: Robert Morris on Congressional power under the articles, *Doc 1; Doc 2*
Wed, Sept 26: James Madison on the *vices of the political system of the United States*
Friday: Sept 28: *Annapolis Convention*

Week 7:
Monday: October 1: Correspondence on another convention: *John Jay; George Washington; Edmund Randolph; James Madison*
Wed, October 3: *The Virginia Plan*
Friday: October 5: *The Pickney Plan*

Week 8:
Monday: Oct 8: *The Patterson Plan*
Wed, Oct 10: *The Hamilton Plan*
Friday, Oct 12: Stewart, *The Summer of 1787*
***Second assignment handed out***

Week 9:
Monday, Oct 15: *Excerpts from Records of the Federal Convention*
Wed, Oct 17: *The Constitution of the United States*
Friday, Oct 19: Maier, *Ratification* (Part I)

Week 10:
***Second assignment due***
Wed, Oct 24: Hamilton, *Federalist No. 9 (excerpts); Federalist 71 (exerpts); Federalist 78 (excerpts)*
Friday, Oct 26: Madison, *Federalist 39 (excerpts); Federalist 46 (excerpts); Federalist 49 (excerpts)*

Week 11:
Monday: Oct 29: *James Wilson Speech at the Pennsylvania Ratifying Convention; John Smilie at Pennsylvania Ratifying Convention; Robert Whitehill at Pennsylvania Ratifying Convention*
Wed, Oct 31: *Minority Dissent at the Pennsylvania Ratifying Convention; Ratification by Pennsylvania*
Week 12:
Monday: Nov. 5: Patrick Henry at Virginia Ratifying Convention; Edmund Randolph at Virginia Ratifying Convention
Wed, Nov. 7: George Mason at Virginia Ratifying Convention; Iredell’s Response to Mason’s Objections (excerpts); Virginia Ratifying Convention, Proposed Amendments
Friday, Nov. 9: HOMECOMING, NO CLASS

Week 13:
Monday, Nov. 12: NO CLASS, VETERANS DAY
Wed, Nov. 14: Ratification by New Jersey; Ratification by Georgia
Friday, Nov. 16: Massachusetts Ratification and Proposed Amendments

Week 14:
Monday: Nov. 19: Bouton, Taming Democracy
Wed., Nov. 21: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK
Friday, Nov. 23: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15:
Monday: November, 26: James Madison on Ratification and Amendment
***FINAL EXAM HANDED OUT***
Wed., Nov. 28: Report of the Select Committee on Amendments; Debate in the House on Amendments
Friday, Nov. 30: House Amendments; Senate Amendments

Week 16:
Monday, December 3: Amendments submitted to the states for ratification
Wed., Dec. 5: Discussion & Wrap up

Week 17: finals week, papers due at 9AM THURSDAY, DEC 13