History 201: Let’s Get Started

Welcome—for a little about the course, the requirements, and the discussions.

A lot about primary documents and the study of history.

Look over the image to the right, and read the description and citation—we’ll be discussing this more?

Click “Overview” when ready, then use the buttons to navigate....

Original copy of Declaration of Independence printed by John Dunlap & sent July 6, 1776 to General George Washington. This copy was read to his troops July 9, 1776 as they awaited a superior British force. MLA citation for an online image of a primary document:

Overview

Please read carefully the orientation material under “Content” in your web course.

The course requires weekly quizzes based on assigned readings, and discussions—it also requires a mid term, final and journal.

The discussions are called field trips and always involve finding documents like this one—they are called primary documents.

Click “This Week” to proceed

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The only known fragment of an original draft of the Declaration of Independence handwritten by Thomas Jefferson. This paragraph began the list of "facts" proving the tyranny of the British King—almost all of these words were eventually changed by Jefferson. Once approved, it was common for Congress to hire printers to print from the handwritten document for public dissemination. Called Broadsides, these printed political documents were eagerly awaited by readers.

MLA citation for an online image of a primary document:

This Week

This week is about orientation—dig in & become familiar with the course. It is also about the first week's assigned terms & reading—see Content, then the first week’s “Study Guidelines” and begin reading.

If you took a virtual field trip to the place where the “Declaration” was printed—you’d go to 2nd and Market Street in Philadelphia!

Click “Good Info” to proceed

Original copy of the “Pennsylvania Packet”, October, 1781, printed by John Dunlap who became the “official” printer of the Continental Congress. His print shop at 2nd & Market also printed copies of the Constitution. MLA citation for an online image of a primary document:

Good Info...

Your field trips can and should be fun—just follow the instructions found under Content inside the course. Since my father was a printer and artist I have always been fascinated with the history of printing.

You can easily use the Internet to travel back to places in time; and capture information and find interesting primary documents like this one.

Click “More” to proceed

Original copy of page 3 in Dunlap’s “Pennsylvania Packet” printed in 1778 during the war includes song lyrics urging recruits to be “gentlemen” beside stories on the Philadelphia Lottery (yes they had Lotteries then) and an advertisement for rent. MLA citation for an online image of a primary document:

http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.14500100
A primary source (or document) is any evidence created by actual participants in an historical time. In this case the engraving at right is a primary document; found at the citation listed (or source). Depicted...

...John Adams (1)
...Roger Sherman (2)
...Robert R. Livingston (3)
...Thomas Jefferson (4)
...Benjamin Franklin (5)
...John Hancock (6)

Click “More” to proceed

Original engraving called “Voting the Declaration” showing Jefferson presenting the finished document to Congress June 28, 1776. Engraved by Edward Savage based on a painting by Robert E. Pine in late 1776. Although unfinished, it is considered one of the most accurate depictions of the men involved in the event. MLA citation for an online image of a primary document:

Use the online Instructions for Field Trips, but here are some of the main requirements; they must be...
...related to course timeline
...use credible online sources
...include a one paragraph description
...include a primary document and its source
...wiki’s, dictionaries, high school sites, social sites are prohibited

Click “Field Trip” to proceed

Original copy of Constitution of the United States printed by John Dunlap in the Pennsylvania Packet, September 19, 1787. MLA citation for an online image of a primary document:

Field Trip?

So, where can you go? As long as it relates to this course timeline—anywhere.

...a Revolutionary Battle

...Benjamin Franklin’s efforts to measure currents

...the home of Loyalist Joseph Galloway

...I have gone to Central Park, designed in 1857—see at the right....

Click “Conclusion” to proceed

Original copy of Central Park design submitted to a contest by Frederick Law Olmstead and his partner in 1858. Law called it Greensward, and he worked on the project from 1858 to 1877. MLA citation for an online image of a primary document:

Let us review. Use this first assignment to become familiar with the course. Develop good habits to look over the study guides, read offline, then come back online for the field trips and quizzes.

Follow instructions for Field Trips and be sure you understand primary documents are “things” created by people active during a given event in the past.

Click the Home symbol below to repeat.

A copy of a printed broadside by Currier and Ives of the “Declaration Committee” appointed by Congress June 11, 1776. But wait—the broadside was printed in 1876—one hundred years later as part of the 100th anniversary of the Declaration. So, it is not strictly a primary document of the revolutionary era, but it is of the era of celebration 100 years later! MLA citation for an online image of a primary document: