Between the 1740s and early 1800s, the structure of the Atlantic world was decisively remade through the transformation of thirteen North American colonies of the British empire into the new United States. Why did the American Revolution happen, what was it about, and what impact did it have on the structure and ideologies of state-formation in the Western world? This class will explore this question by tracing the deep and proximate origins of the American Revolution in the particular challenges of governing composite monarchies in the early modern world, and the outcome of the Seven Years' War; the events and progress of conflict in the British empire; and the consequences - political, ideological, and cultural - of the Revolution for the new United States, the British empire, and the rest of the world. Grading will be based on an in-class midterm; a writing assignment involving the analysis and interpretation of primary sources; a final exam; and consistent and active participation in discussion sections.

A detailed syllabus will be available in early January 2018. Questions in the interim? Please email asheeshs@usc.edu